

largest anti-abortion group, issued its 2018 endorsements on Tuesday, and it backs Rep. Larry Householder. For those watching the Ohio House speaker's race, Rep. Ryan Smith, who is expected to compete against Householder for the spot, was not endorsed. However, ORTL President Mike Gonidakis tweeted it would be reckless, at best, to say that his group was getting behind Team Householder, noting that it also endorsed a number of pro-Smith candidates.

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Kasich builds his resume: Gov. John Kasich will spend his final months in office as chair of the Midwestern Governors Association, with an agenda focused on how to prepare Midwestern workers for new high-tech jobs. Kasich will host the 12-member bipartisan public-policy group at a September summit in Columbus, according to the Associated Press.

= 9

Renacci endorsement: The Ohio Black Republican Association voted unanimously to endorse U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci for U.S. Senate, his campaign announced Tuesday.

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9

Comfortable position: Democratic incumbent Sherrod Brown is ahead of both leading Republican candidates for U.S. Senate, according to new statewide polling from Baldwin Wallace University. Cleveland.com's Rich Exner reports that Brown leads Rep. Jim Renacci 41 percent to 29 percent and businessman Mike Gibbons 41 percent to 31 percent.

= 9 **Life support:** The Ohio Right to Life endorsements also included candidates in two contested Republican primary elections, reports cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias. The group's PAC is endorsing Renacci for U.S. Senate and Anthony Gonzalez, a former professional football player, for Ohio's 16th Congressional District.

= 9 **High energy:** Tobias covered a Tuesday night forum on gerrymandering that drew a capacity crowd of about 100 to an education center in Beachwood. The freewheeling discussion explored whether a congressional redistricting reform issue on the May ballot would do enough to prevent a majority party from drawing another unfair map.

= 9 **Open fire:** A Super PAC supporting Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's bid for governor, Onward Ohio, launched statewide TV ads attacking her Republican primary opponent, Attorney General Mike DeWine, according to Tobias. The spots compare DeWine unfavorably to President Donald Trump on trade, guns and illegal immigration.

= 9

Return fire: DeWine on Tuesday announced a statewide ad campaign and a website that goes after Taylor. The ad is titled "Unfit, Unqualified." Tobias has the details.

= 9

Not quitting: As she pursues her run for governor, Taylor has become one of Gov. John Kasich's biggest critics. When asked why she continues to work for him, Taylor said she stays in the Kasich administration because she's "not a quitter," Tobias writes.

= 9

Not quitting, Part 2: A petition and letter signed by dozens of Ohio activists demanded that Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center remove Jane Portman, wife of Republican U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, from the hospital board of trustees, because of the \$3.5 million her husband received in campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association, reports Cincinnati.com's Anne Saker. But a hospital official says Jane Portman will stay.

= 9

Hold on Lab lovers: PETA is worried about Republican Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek's bill that would recognize the Labrador retriever as the official state dog of Ohio, reports the Columbus Dispatch's Jim Siegel. Although the animal welfare organization recognizes the good intentions of the bill, it fears that it could encourage puppy mills to produce the dogs in greater numbers.

= 9 **Full Disclosure**

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Five things we learned from Salem Republican Rep. Tim Ginter's May 15 ethics disclosure statement.

= A 1. He's a pastor at Church of the Center in Salem, in addition to his work as a lawmaker. In 2016, he earned \$66,584 legislating and \$25,000 to \$49,999 preaching.

= 9

2. He is invested in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation and three mutual funds.

= 9 3. He owed at least \$1,000 each to Chase Freedom and Bank of America in 2016.

= 9

4. The state reimbursed him \$5,424.64 in mileage between Columbus and Mahoning County.

= A 5. He received a gift valued at over \$75 from GOP donor Virginia Ragan.

= 9 **What's Going On Today**

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8 to 9:30 a.m. – Reps. Tim Ginter and Bill Reineke fundraising breakfast: The Republicans are seeking donations between \$350 and \$1,000. *Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.*

= 9

8 to 9:30 a.m. – Reps. Emilia Sykes and Brigid Kelly fundraiser: The Democrats are seeking contributions between \$350 and \$1,000. *Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St.*

= 9 **8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Southwest Ohio Advocacy Day:** The event is being held by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce. *Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **9 a.m. to 10 a.m. – Immunization Advocacy Network of Ohio breakfast briefing:** Invited speakers include state Reps. Anne Gonzales and Al Landis, as well as members of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Ohio chapter. *Bistro Room, Capital Club, 50 S. Front St.*

= 9 **9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America advocacy day:** The gun-control group will convene at Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St., before heading to the Ohio Statehouse.

= 9 **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – American Traffic Services Safety Association advocacy day.** *Rotunda, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **10 a.m. – Obhof to discuss report showing need for fewer regulations:** Senate President Larry Obhof is set to join George Mason University researchers to discuss their report showing the negative effect of regulations on Ohio's economy. *Harding Senate Press Room, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – UFCW Ohio Lobby Day:** Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union plan to speak with lawmakers.

= 9 **10:30 a.m. – Democratic senators to unveil gun safety bill:** Sens. Sandra Williams and Joe Schiavoni will be joined by representatives of Moms Demand Action. The event will be streamed live on the Ohio Channel. *Senate Minority Caucus Conference Room, Suite 230, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Rep. Scott Lipps fundraising luncheon: Sponsor levels for the Franklin Republican range from \$350 to \$1,000. *Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St.*

= 9 **Noon – AEI President Arthur Brooks to speak at luncheon:** The Buckeye Institute is hosting the event with the president of the American Enterprise Institute, a national conservative think tank. *Crystal Room, 2nd floor, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.*

= 9 **1:30 p.m. – Senate session.**

= 9 **1:30 p.m. – House session.**

= 9 **1:30 p.m. – UFCW to endorse Richard Cordray for governor:** The Democratic candidate plans to be on hand to accept the endorsement of the union. *West side steps, Ohio Statehouse.*

= A **1:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Commission of Ohio meeting.** *Room 11B, 180 E. Broad St.*

= 9 **2:30 p.m. – Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:** The

panel may amend legislation to plug orphaned oil and gas wells (House Bill 225). *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= A 3:45 p.m. – **DeWine, Husted to meet with SW Ohio law enforcement leaders:** Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike DeWine and running mate Jon Husted are scheduled to hold a news conference with Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters and Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones. *12th floor, Residence Inn Downtown Cincinnati, 506 E. 4th St., Cincinnati.*

= 9

4 to 6 p.m. – Ohio Energy Group legislative reception. *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **5 to 7 p.m. – Sen. Kenny Yuko fundraiser:** Sponsor levels for the Senate minority leader range from \$500 to \$2,500. *Milestone 229, 229 Civic Center Dr.*

= 9 **5 to 6:30 p.m. – Reps. Bob Cupp and Dick Stein fundraiser:** The Republicans are seeking contributions between \$350 and \$1,000. *The Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay St.*

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5:30 to 7 p.m. – Reps. Tavia Galonski and Catherine Ingram fundraiser: The Democrats are seeking donations between \$250 and \$1,000. *Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front St.*

= 9

6 p.m. – Kevin Bacon congressional fundraiser: The Republican candidate for Ohio 12th Congressional District is seeking contributions between \$100 and \$1,000. *Old Bag of Nails-Pour House Tavern, 57 Mill St., Gahanna.*

= 9 **Birthdays**

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Joseph Vance, Ohio's 13th governor (1786)

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

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"Congressman, I want to keep you focused on this, and respectfully, let=

2s..."

= 9 "I want to keep you focused on the facts."

= 9

-MSNBC's Katy Tur and U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan of Champaign County, respectively, during a heated TV discussion Monday about President Donald Trump and Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

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One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye Highlights New Research on Negative Economic Impact of Ohio's Growing Regulatory System

Columbus, OH -- At a press conference with **Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof** and Dr. James Broughel, a research fellow with the **Mercatus Center** at George Mason University, **The Buckeye Institute's** president and chief executive officer Robert Alt highlighted the negative impact of government regulations on Ohio's economic growth and the burden of occupational licensing specifically.

The press conference released **A Snapshot of Ohio Regulation in 2018**, which found that Ohio is one of the most heavily regulated states with nearly 247,000 restrictions, far more than neighboring states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

"We have long known that Ohio's regulatory system is hurting our economy and hurting Ohio workers. This new Mercatus research draws a stark comparison between what businesses and employees in Ohio experience versus our neighboring states," said Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "This isn't just a story of the number of regulations, this is a story of people. People who want to enter a new career field but can't due to the costs. People who want a promotion at work they are qualified for save for a simple piece of paper that says the word license. People who want to build a better future for themselves and their families. We must remember these people when looking at occupational licensing."

The Impact of Occupational Licensing

- Ohio likely sacrifices tens of thousands of potential jobs due to occupational licensing.
- A report by **The Buckeye Institute** found that the burden of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements has a greater impact on middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.
- **According to the Hamilton Project**, 18 percent of Ohioans require an occupational license in order to earn a living in their chosen profession.
- A **W.E. Upjohn Institute** study revealed that the cost of hiring a licensed worker is approximately 15 percent higher than an unlicensed worker with the same level of experience doing the same job.
- **The Foundation for Economic Education** found that households in Ohio could save \$775 per year with occupational licensing reform.

In his remarks, Alt highlighted the story of Dawn Hochwalt, a salon manager from Dayton, Ohio who sees first-hand how Ohio's burdensome regulations impact her employees and her business, with little to no benefit to public health and safety. She also sees the impact the rising costs of cosmetology school has on her colleagues whose wages are being garnished to repay student loans. As Hochwalt said recently, "When I was in school it cost around \$6,000 to go to school and get a license, now that cost is \$20,000 or more. That debt is putting a tremendous burden on young people and the 1,500 hours they need to earn their license means they are not able to get on the salon floor to earn a living and pay off their debt."

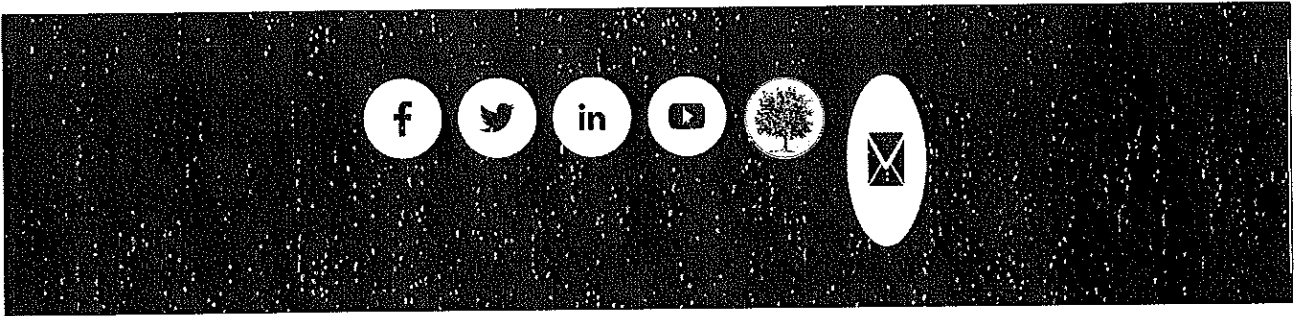
Reforms such as those found in Senate Bill 255, which would permit licensing only in clear cut and verifiable cases to ensure public safety, and reforms such as those found in House Bill 189, which would lower the number of hours needed for a cosmetology license from

1,500 to 1,000 (the same number of hours as required in New York) would make it easier for Ohioans to begin their careers, earn a living, and move ahead in their chosen field.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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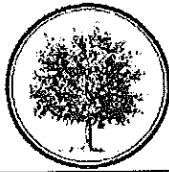
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

When you were growing up, your dutiful parents may have taught you (correctly so) that there is no such thing as a free lunch.

However, due to Arthur Brooks' flight cancellation, we had to cancel our luncheon event with him today at noon at the Athletic Club of Columbus.

As a result, we still have 80 pre-paid meals that we are on the hook for.

It's pan seared chicken, red skin mashed potatoes, and asparagus. Brownies too.

In an act of simultaneous frugality and generosity, we invite all of you to join our Buckeye staff in a consolation lunch that is free to all comers today only.

Please come on over if you are in Columbus and would like to show your parents that they were wrong just this one time.

Again, free lunch on Buckeye. No obligation. No program to listen to.
= A

Noon. Athletic Club of Columbus. Second Floor. Crystal Room. TODAY!

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

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To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: RELEASE: Obhof Discusses Regulatory Reforms Necessary for Ohio's Economic Prosperity

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Obhof Discusses Regulatory Reforms Necessary for Ohio's Economic Prosperity

Ohio's 246,852 Restrictions Far Surpass Neighboring States

COLUMBUS—Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) today called for additional reforms of Ohio's regulatory environment. He was joined by Dr. James Broughel of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, who recently completed a study on the number of regulatory restrictions the state imposes, and Robert Alt, President and CEO of the Buckeye Institute.

= AThe Mercatus Center has studied the regulatory environments of 22 states so far as part of its ongoing "State RegData" project. Their study concluded that Ohio is one of the most heavily regulated states they have analyzed, trailing only New

York and Illinois, and far surpassing the neighboring states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia.

"Unnecessary red tape and regulation is stifling the potential of Ohio's small businesses, which in turn limits job opportunities for Ohioans," said Obhof. "The legislature has a responsibility to make sure any rules or regulations created by state government have a specific purpose and intent to protect our citizens and do not create needless barriers to growth and opportunity."

"With more than 246,000 regulatory restrictions on the state's books, policy makers in Ohio should be considering regulatory reform as a way to boost growth," said Dr. James Broughel of the Mercatus Center.

In response to the study, President Obhof highlighted the opportunity to reduce red tape bureaucracy while continuing to provide Ohioans with necessary health and safety protections. He identified today several ways the legislature could consider modernizing Ohio's Administrative Code and reducing cumbersome regulations, including:

- Tracking and accounting of the total number of restrictions in Ohio;
- Allowing for a more thorough review process of which regulations are effective and which are outdated or duplicative.
- Setting a reduction goal to bring Ohio more in-line with the national average, and consider placing a cap once that goal is achieved.
- Consider eliminating two rules for every new one that is created for the next three years, or until the reduction target is met.

Today's press conference and presentation by the Mercatus Center is archived on The Ohio Channel. The Mercatus study "A Snapshot of Ohio Regulation in 2018" can be found here.

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###

Senator Obhof represents the 22nd Ohio Senate District, which encompasses all of Medina, Ashland and Richland counties as well as portions of Holmes county. He currently serves as President of the Ohio Senate. For more information, please visit www.ohiosenate.gov/obhof. For a high resolution photo of Senator Obhof, click [here](#).

Release Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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MAJORITY CAUCUS MEDIA CONTACT:

John Fortney
Senate Majority Communications
Phone: (614) 995-1280
Email: John.Fortney@OhioSenate.gov

= 9

= A

From: Senate Majority Press Office

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 12:01 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: STATEMENTS: NFIB, Buckeye Institute, Farm Bureau and Others
Support Additional Regulatory Reform in Ohio

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Strong Support for Additional Regulatory Reform in Ohio

= ACOLUMBUS - The following individuals and organizations support Senate President Larry Obhof's call today for additional regulatory reforms in Ohio.

An archive of the Senate President's press conference with Dr. James Broughel of the Mercatus Center can be viewed [here](#). The Mercatus study, "A Snapshot of Ohio Regulation in 2018" can be found [here](#).

Robert Alt, President and CEO

The Buckeye Institute

"Ohio has achieved significant reform under the leadership of Senate President Obhof, who has made rolling back unnecessary and counterproductive regulations a priority. We are pleased that new research from the Mercatus Center makes the case to continue the vital work of reducing the regulatory burden on Ohioans and their businesses. One area ripe for reform is the state's burdensome occupational licensing regime, which has forced people to spend hundreds if not thousands of dollars to earn a license that in many cases does little-to-nothing to ensure the public's health or safety. It is time to end this type of permission slip policy."

Roger Geiger, Vice President and Executive Director

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)-Ohio

"NFIB studies show over-regulation ranks as one of the top three problems among our members. Small business owners face regulatory compliance costs that are 67 percent higher than big businesses, adding up to \$19 billion a year. The study by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University shows just how onerous it can be for someone running a business to understand all the regulation in Ohio that may impact them. We applaud Senate President Obhof for his focus on looking to reduce the regulatory burden for Ohio entrepreneurs."

Adam J. Sharp, Executive Vice President

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

"Farmers are not opposed to regulation. They're opposed to regulations that accomplish

no proven benefit, are in conflict with one another and are changed arbitrarily. Farm Bureau supports efforts to protect all Ohioans through a regulatory process that is transparent, consistent, practical, economically feasible and based on science and credible data."

Scott Wiley, President and CEO

The Ohio Society of CPAs

"CPAs work closely with Ohio business owners and have seen firsthand the negative ripple effect excessive regulations and related reporting can have on a company's bottom line. Complying with burdensome rules that don't serve a reasonable public purpose cost a business time and money – resources that are much better spent growing their business and creating jobs. OSCPA supports the Ohio Senate's leadership in further cutting regulatory red tape."

Gordon M. Gough, President and CEO

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

"On behalf of our more than 7,000 members, the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants appreciates the Senate's acknowledgement that a comprehensive review of Ohio business regulations is in order. We welcome an in-depth examination to help identify overly-burdensome requirements that adversely affect the bottom lines of our members. We applaud President Obhof, Senator McColley and the members of the Ohio Senate for their continued efforts to improve the business climate in our state."

Keith Lake, Vice President, Government Affairs

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

"Regulations have a sizable impact on free enterprise, and a disproportionate impact on small businesses. And working to reduce the impact of regulations remains a top priority for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. That's why the Mercatus Center report we learned about today is alarming, especially the fact that Ohio's Administrative Code contains

almost 250,000 regulatory restrictions – nearly twice as many as the average state and vastly more than our neighboring states. Through the Common Sense Initiative, Ohio has made some great strides since 2011 in cutting bureaucratic red tape and making sure agency regulations are as effective and business-friendly as possible. In fact, CSI has rescinded more than 1,000 rules and amended more than 1,200 other rules, which has helped make Ohio's rules more job-friendly. The Mercatus Center report shows even more common sense may be necessary to make Ohio more attractive for job growth."

Joe Rosato, Director, Government Affairs

Ohio Restaurant Association

"The Ohio restaurant industry serves thousands of customers whose health and safety is a top priority. In addition to federal regulations, complicated and excessive state regulations hinder opportunities for growth among our members. The ORA supports any common sense initiatives that progress the restaurant and foodservice industry, employing more than 575,000 and 10% of Ohio's workforce, while maintaining the highest standards of safety."

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Release Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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MAJORITY CAUCUS MEDIA CONTACT:

John Fortney

Senate Majority Communications

Phone: (614) 995-1280

Email: John.Fortney@OhioSenate.gov

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From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: General Assembly gives final OK to \$2.6B capital budget

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Thursday, March 22, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Rotunda Rumblings

= 9 **Smooth sailing:** A \$2.6 billion capital budget is headed to Gov. John Kasich's desk after easily clearing the Ohio Senate on Wednesday. The

proposal, similar in size to the 2016 capital budget, includes (among other things) \$600 million for K-12 local school construction capital projects, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects via the Public Works Commission, \$483 million for colleges and universities, and \$234 million for trails and parks. As legislative leaders had predicted, House Bill 529 zipped quickly through the General Assembly with few hearings, no changes, and minimal opposition.

= **9 In other Senate action:** Senators passed Senate Bill 216, the "Public School Deregulation Act," which (among other things) would allow a superintendent to hire teachers for grades or subject areas for which they are not licensed, increase to seven years the time non-teaching school employees must work to receive tenure, and change teacher evaluations. The measure now heads to the House.

= **9 Zipping out of the House:** Under Senate Bill 170, veterans would be able to drive semis without having to take a commercial driver license skills test if they operated a truck at any time within two years of getting out of the military. Currently, drivers can only waive the test if they have regularly operated a truck in the two years. The bill, which passed the House on Wednesday, heads back to the Senate for concurrence.

= **9 Headed to Kasich's desk:** Lawmakers gave final approval Wednesday to a bill creating a permanent three-day sales tax holiday for back-to-school shopping each August. Clothes up to \$75 are tax exempt under Senate Bill 226, and school supplies and instructional materials up to \$20 are tax exempt. The bill was amended in a House committee to allow educational service centers to put school safety levies on the ballot.

= **9 House party:** Headed to the Senate are a number of measures the House adopted during Wednesday's session, including a measure that would require drivers to watch, listen and potentially stop not only for approaching trains but other on-track equipment (House Bill 190). Local governments, before filing a tax complaint or counter-complaint, would have to adopt a resolution approving the complaint (House Bill 343). The chamber advanced legislation that regulates dog breeders, attempting to head off a puppy mill constitutional amendment (House Bill 506). A bill that would set up a multi-state compact offering prizes for the cure of major

diseases (House Bill 345) also passed.

= 9 **Excessive regulation?** Ohio law contains 246,852 regulatory restrictions, making it the third-most regulated state of the 22 the Mercatus Center at George Mason University has studied, George Mason research fellow James Broughel said at a Wednesday press conference. Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof called the regs red tape that gets in the way of economic growth. The Republican said to expect legislation in coming weeks to reduce regs by perhaps 30 percent over the next three or four years. The departments with the most regs were the Ohio Lottery Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and the Division of the State Fire Marshal.

= 9

More time to enact regs? Ohio has a nearly full-time legislature, as do New York and Illinois, which were Nos. 1 and 2 in the Mercatus study. Arizona had the least number of regs and has a legislature that generally meets 100 days a year. Broughel said he plans to eventually study whether longer legislative sessions lead to more regulations, since lawmakers have more time to drum up legislation. He also said state population plays into how long a legislature meets.

= 9

Winning the home front: Richard Cordray is trying to nail down support in his home turf of Franklin County. The Democratic gubernatorial candidate from suburban Columbus unveiled endorsements from more than 50 local leaders this week, including ex-Mayor Michael Coleman, Franklin County Commissioners Marilyn Brown and John O'Grady, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein, and Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin. Cordray's also trying to score the Franklin County Democrats' endorsement at their meeting next week. "I think we seek endorsements whenever people are willing to consider endorsements," he told Capitol Letter on Wednesday.

= 9

Speaking of endorsements: Cordray was at the Statehouse Wednesday to accept the backing of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, which represents about 80,000 grocery, pharmacy, manufacturing and health-care workers in Ohio. Cordray pledged, if elected, to fight so-called right-to-work measures that would prohibit private-sector union membership as a condition of employment.

= 9

Law-enforcement backup: Republican Mike DeWine's gubernatorial campaign on Wednesday announced endorsements from 47 county sheriffs and 40 county prosecutors, including Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters and Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones.

= 9 **Thompson backs Gibbons:** Conservative GOP Rep. Andy Thompson is endorsing Cleveland-area businessman Mike Gibbons for U.S. Senate, Gibbons' campaign announced Wednesday, bucking the Ohio GOP leadership who chose U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci for the race.

= 9

Stories We're Talking About

= 9 **Halt:** Ohio's attempt to shut down red light and speed cameras on Wednesday passed the Ohio House, and now goes to the Senate for review, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt writes. "Unlike previous attempts to shutter the controversial technology, House Bill 410 doesn't put restrictions on the cameras," Borchardt writes. "Instead, it makes cities lose money by moving camera-initiated violations to municipal court and deducting money from state appropriations in the amount cities and villages generate from camera tickets."

= 9

Abstinence only: The former head of Ohio's sexual abstinence programs contributed to the Trump administration decision to end a federal grant program to combat teen pregnancy, according to documents obtained in a lawsuit over the abandoned grants, cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton reports. The documents "indicate that Valerie Huber - who managed Ohio's abstinence programs between 2004 and 2007 and later became president of the National Abstinence Education Association - was among the HHS officials who decided to end the program," Eaton writes.

= 9 **Kasich in California:** Ohio Gov. John Kasich appeared in Sacramento with former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who encouraged Ohio's governor to make another run for president, Columbus Dispatch reporter Randy Ludlow writes. "John, get back to Washington and kick some butt and take care of this mess, once and for all. We can't take it anymore," Schwarzenegger said.

= 9

Dangerous? No guns for you: Two Ohio senators introduced a bill that would allow law enforcement officials to confiscate guns from people a court rules are dangerous to themselves or others, cleveland.com's Borchardt writes. "We're not trying to take away anybody's rights; we're trying to make sure that we keep people safe," said state Sen. Joe Schiavoni, who sponsored the bill along with Sen. Sandra Williams.

= 9 From the suburbs to Washington: Students from the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood will travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the "March for our Lives" gun control rally on Saturday, cleveland.com's Eaton reports. "We had never seen students be completely empowered by this terrible thing that happened," said Lakewood High School student Izzy Bryson. "This could be our school next. I don't want to fear that I will lose one of my friends or teachers."

= 9

Getting ugly: Ohio gubernatorial candidate Republican Mike DeWine's campaign took a play from President Donald Trump's playbook on Twitter Wednesday and attacked primary opponent Lt. Mary Taylor, the Dispatch's Ludlow reports. The tweet accused Taylor of "criminal" activity for flying on a state plane for personal use, and included the hashtag #LockHerUp. "The tweet represented the most extreme accusation yet in a continuing DeWine theme against Taylor," Ludlow writes.

= 9 Close the loophole: A bill backed by Ohio U.S. Sen. Rob Portman that would close an Internet law loophole passed the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, cleveland.com's Stephen Koff reports. The loophole has protected "classified ad websites such as Backpage.com from liability when they ran ads for minors being offered as prostitutes," Koff writes.

= 9

Full Disclosure

= 9 Five things we learned from the May 15 financial disclosure statement of Rep. Brian Hill, a Zanesville Republican.

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1. His two main sources of income are his legislative salary of \$60,584 and his farm, from which he earned between \$50,000 and \$99,000.

= 9

2. The state reimbursed him \$2,271 for mileage, as well as \$622.80 for

travel and expenses to attend the Council of State Governments' State Ag and Rural Leaders conference.

= 9 3. He listed dividend payments of up to \$999 each from Primerica, Muskingum Livestock, Edward Jones, AT&T, Huntington Bank and Invesco.

= 9 4. He collected rent payments between \$1,000 and \$9,999 from two different properties he owns.

= 9 5. At various times during 2016, he owed more than \$1,000 to a number of agricultural companies, as well as three banks and a Mastercard account.

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On The Move

= 9 Cuyahoga County Republican Party Chair Rob Frost has been appointed to the Kent State University Board of Trustees by Gov. John Kasich. Frost, a Lakewood attorney, fills the seat of Stephen Colecchi, whose term expired last year.

= 9 What's Going On Today

= 9

Throughout the day – Ohio YMCA Youth and Government State Assembly, District 1. *Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **8 to 9:30 a.m. – John “Bud” O'Brien fundraising breakfast:** The Republican candidate for House District 80 is seeking donations between \$250 and \$500. *Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.*

= 9 **9 a.m. – Joint Education Oversight Committee:** The panel is set to hear a presentation and discussion of its revised Early Learning and Development Report, as well as an update on research projects. *South Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= 9 **9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. – 2nd annual Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Summit:** The event includes an 11:30 a.m. press conference

in the Harding Senate Press Room with Reps. Teresa Fedor and Tavia Galonski, who are hosting the event. *Ohio Statehouse.*

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10 a.m. – State Employment Relations Board. *12th floor, 65 E. State St.*

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10 a.m. – Director of National Institutes of Health to talk about opioid addiction: Director Francis Collins will talk to Ohio State University professors. *Patricia & Steven Gabbe Conference Room (L045), The James Cancer Hospital, 460 W. 10th Ave.*

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11 a.m. – Cuyahoga County, Cleveland leaders to launch tax levy campaign: County Executive Armond Budish, Mayor Frank Jackson, and county council members are scheduled to kick off the campaign for Issue 9, a countywide levy that would fund health and human services programs. *MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Dr., Cleveland.*

= 9 **11:30 a.m. – Opioid technology winners to be announced:**

Following the roundtable with professors, inaugural winners of Ohio State's new Opioid Innovation Fund grants will be announced. *Room B050, The James Cancer Hospital.*

= 9 **5:30 p.m. ? 3 ProgressOhio to host discussion on gun violence:**

Scheduled panelists include Rep. Kristin Boggs and Dr. Anita Somani with the Physicians Action Network, among others. *ProgressOhio Offices, 35 East Gay St.*

= 9 **5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Kevin Bacon congressional fundraiser:** The Republican candidate for Ohio's 12th Congressional District is seeking \$500 per couple and \$1,000 host level. *The Lakes Golf and Country Club, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville.*

= 9 **Birthdays**

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John Gilligan, Ohio's 62nd governor (1921-2013)

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

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"I find it insulting that Mike DeWine is comfortable calling me names while hiding behind an ad agency but refuses to say them to my face in a debate. He lacks the courage to stand across from me under the lights and answer for his record. Ohio deserves better."

= 9 - Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who is facing DeWine in the GOP primary for governor, in a tweet on Wednesday. DeWine's campaign announced a statewide television ad Tuesday about Taylor called "Unfit. Unqualified."

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: It's Time to Cut Ohio's Film Tax Credit, By Quinn Beeson and Tyler Shankel

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

It's Time to Cut Ohio's Film Tax Credit

By Quinn Beeson and Tyler Shankel
March 23, 2018

It's not often that **The Buckeye Institute** agrees with **Policy Matters Ohio**, but when it comes to opposing the increase of the special interest motion picture tax credit, we do!

Policymakers are proposing increasing this special interest film tax credit, currently capped at \$40 million a year, to a whopping \$100 million annually and broadening it to include some Broadway productions, claiming that this tax credit will incentivize Hollywood and Broadway producers to set up shop in Ohio. What it really does is waste your tax dollars on a multi-billion-dollar industry that doesn't need handouts from Ohioans.

This proposal would cost **Ohio's General Revenue Fund** \$58 million and local government and public libraries an additional \$2 million annually. The Ohio Legislative

Service Commission has estimated that the bill will result in a \$60 million loss in total revenue per year.

One example of a state who has already gone through this issue is Massachusetts and its own film tax credit. According to **their annual report in 2011**, the spending cuts necessary to pay for the tax credit resulted in more than 1,400 lost jobs, so only 222 jobs were gained statewide, at a cost of \$325,000 each. In **their 2014 report**, they found the program actually destroyed more jobs than it created in 2010. From 2006 until 2014, this tax incentive has only generated \$0.14 in revenue for every dollar spent, costing Massachusetts \$471.6 million.

When alternative job creation policies are considered, it becomes clear that the inconsistencies and costs of such special interest tax credits makes them a poor policy choice, and all the supposed gains appear paltry in the face of smarter alternatives. In 2011, **North Carolina compared their film tax credit to an across-the-board reduction in taxes of the same value**. The incentive was estimated to have created 50-70 new jobs, while a business tax reduction would create 370-450 new jobs, cost the same, and benefit all businesses equally-not just well-connected filmmakers.

When it comes down to it, Ohio taxpayers should not be giving handouts to movie and Broadway producers. Extending this film credit will only hurt Ohioans and Ohio's businesses. Ohio policymakers should nix the film tax credit altogether, as we suggested the **last time** an increased cap was proposed, just two years ago.

Ohio taxpayers' hard-earned money would be better spent on projects that benefit the entire state, not just those benefiting the entertainment industry.

*Quinn Beeson is an economic research analyst and Tyler Shankel is an economic policy analyst. Both are with The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center**.*

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual



Union workers and their allies from across the state rallied Saturday at the Ohio Statehouse ahead of a Monday case before the U.S. Supreme Court. (Laura Hancock, Capitol Letter.)

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= 9 **Rotunda Rumbblings**

= 9 **The pharmacist will see you now:** In the past two decades, the role of pharmacists has evolved from pill dispensing to administering medicine such as flu shots or the anti-drug and alcohol abuse medicine Vivitrol, said Antonio Ciaccia of the Ohio Pharmacists Association. Pharmacists also consult with patients about their overall drug regimen and make adjustments, he said. But they continue to bill insurance only for the medicine they dispense and don't get paid for the other services. Senate Bill 265, sponsored by Sen. Matt Dolan, would change that, allowing pharmacists to enter insurance codes now reserved for doctors or other providers, said Ciaccia, whose group supports the measure. The bill would only affect private insurance and not Ohio Medicaid.

= 9

Still assessing: The Ohio State Medical Association, which represents doctors, and the Ohio Association of Health Plans, which represents insurers, each said they are reviewing the legislation, which was introduced late last week.

= 9 **Ohio eyes on case:** Today the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31, which will examine whether public-sector unions can charge non-union employees fees for the collective bargaining agreements from which they benefit. Unions at a Cap Square rally Saturday argued the case is one more attempt by big business to erode organized labor's money and power. But the Buckeye Institute argues non-union employees' First Amendment rights are violated when they're paying money to groups that they disagree with, writes Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock.

= 9

Tuition assistance: People who save money for college in 529 plans outside the state could receive Ohio's income tax deduction under a new bipartisan bill. Current law provides people a deduction of up to \$4,000 if they save through the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, said bill sponsor Rep. Gary Scherer. But a trade association representing the Tuition Trust Authority and managers of other states' 529 plans told Scherer that for some investors, it's more beneficial to open accounts in other states. Scherer said the Tuition Trust Authority supports House Bill 524 because other states give tax deductions for people with plans in Ohio.

= 9 **State checked out:** The nearly 14,000 state employees whose medical claims are processed by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield can go to the ER without worries that they will be stuck with a bill, Hancock reports. Ohio opted out of Anthem's new practice of denying some claims when ER visits are not for emergency care, according to the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. Ohio is self-insured but has contracted out claims administration to Aetna, Medical Mutual of Ohio and, beginning in 2016, Anthem.

= 9

Stamp act: Serving as a notary public – or using the services of one – in Ohio would change significantly under Senate Bill 263 from Republican Sens. Matt Huffman and Steve Wilson. The "Notary Public Modernization Act" would, for the first time, allow documents to be notarized online via audio-video conferencing. Notaries would be commissioned by the Ohio secretary of state instead of by each of Ohio's 88 counties (which have varying rules and processes), and applicants would have to undergo a background check, take a training course and pass an assessment. The bill also would change what notaries are allowed to charge for their services.

= 9 **Who had the most signatures?** When Rocky River physician Jon Heavey failed to make the Democratic ballot for governor last week because he only had 854 valid signatures, it made us wonder. How close did the successful major party candidates for governor cut it? The state requires 1,000 signatures for major (Republican and Democratic) party candidates and 500 for minor-party candidates, which this year is just one – Connie Gadell-Newton of the Green Party. Here are the number of valid signatures for governor. For U.S. Senate and down-ballot races, visit here.

= 9 Mike DeWine (R) – 2,724

Richard Cordray (D) – 2,595

Dennis Kucinich (D) – 2,140

Joe Schiavoni (D) – 1,861

= 9 Mary Taylor (R) – 1,799

Larry Ealy (D) – 1,241

Bill O'Neill (D) – 1,237

Paul E. Ray (D) ? 3 1,192

Constance Gadell-Newton (G) – 634

= 9 **Slaby bows out:** State Rep. Marilyn Slaby has withdrawn her bid for a fourth term representing House District 38, according to the Akron Beacon Journal's Doug Livingston. That leaves ex-Summit County Councilman Bill Roemer as the lone Republican in the race for the Republican-leaning district in western Summit and Stark counties. He'll face Democrat Elliot Kolkovich, an assistant Summit County prosecutor, in November.

= 9 **Another Dem with petition problems:** Ohio House District 37 has been high on Democrats' list of potential pickups this year. But now it's up to Secretary of State Jon Husted to decide whether the Democrat's candidate, Casey Weinstein, will qualify for the ballot. The two Republicans on the Summit County Board of Elections moved this week to reject Weinstein's petitions because of a typo; the board's two Democrats sided with Weinstein, leaving it to Husted to break the tie. Democrats say they're confident Husted will side with Weinstein – but just in case, Casey's wife Amanda has filed as a write-in candidate, according to Aaron Fisher of the House Democrats' campaign arm.

= 9 **And yet another:** Ashley Philipp, a resident of tiny McComb in Hancock County, failed to submit enough valid signatures to make the ballot in House District 83, currently held by term-limited Republican Rep. Robert Sprague. Fisher tells Capitol Letter he's confident they'll find a write-in candidate in the GOP-friendly district to replace Philipp by today's write-in candidate deadline.

= 9 **Bacon bit:** A Franklin County Republican Party screening committee has recommended that state Sen. Kevin Bacon pick up the county party's endorsement in the special election for Ohio's 12th congressional district. In all, 10 Republicans interviewed with the committee; the county party is set to vote on an endorsement on Tuesday. Getting the county party's backing would help Bacon, already considered a frontrunner in the GOP primary, to separate himself from the rest of the crowded field.

= 9 **Housing, coal projects on Controlling Board agenda:** The Controlling Board on Monday is set to hear requests from the Development Services Agency to approve \$13.6 million for low-income rental housing, as well as another \$5.5 million for housing assistance grants. DSA is also seeking the board's blessing to release more than \$1.8 million in total to Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati to pay for coal research projects.

= 9

Stories We're Talking About

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Kasich 2020 talk revives: "John Kasich's inner circle is gearing up for a possible presidential run in 2020 -- actively weighing the prospect of a Republican primary challenge to President Donald Trump against the feasibility of a long-shot general election campaign as an independent," reports Politico's Gabriel Debenedetti. While it's still up in the air whether he runs, "his activity has undergone a marked shift from just a few months ago, when Kasich and his allies repeatedly denied any interest whatsoever in the White House."

= 9

Indie favorite? Kasich, speaking Sunday on ABC's "This Week," offered the strongest signal yet that he may run for president as an independent, saying, "We may be beginning to see the end of the two-party system." The Columbus Dispatch's Jack Torry writes that Kasich said he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

= 9

Health plan: Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska were in Washington on Friday trying to refocus the nation's attention on health care. The bipartisan group of governors released a six-page blueprint that summarizes the best of the ideas they have proposed during the past year. Cleveland.com's Steve Koff has the details.

= 9

Kasich's secret gun group: "Kasich said he is hoping that a secret group he's convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly," writes Jessica Wehrman of the Dispatch. The governor "declined to lay out what the group is considering, but said they've reached agreements on four different issues."

= 9 **Stock split:** Cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias finds that Republican gubernatorial candidates Mike DeWine and Mary Taylor differ when it comes to banning bump stocks, devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to be effectively converted into automatic weapons. DeWine backs such a move; Taylor disagrees. But both support arming teachers to help improve school safety.

= 9

Portman open to (some) gun measures: Republican U.S. Sen. Rob Portman told cleveland.com's Seth Richardson on Saturday that Congress should look at some gun-control measures following last week's mass shooting at a Florida high school,

including tightening background checks and raising the legal age a person can legally purchase a rifle from 18 to 21. But he stopped short of endorsing universal background checks and equivocated on an assault weapons ban.

= 9 **Powder scare:** "A white powdery substance found Friday in an envelope mailed to U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's Columbus office has been determined not to be harmful," writes Capitol Letter's Jeremy Pelzer. It's still unclear who mailed the powder or why it was sent.

= 9

Legal limbo: Portman says he's "frustrated" that Trump is taking his time to appoint Greg Hartman as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, according to Jason Williams of the Cincinnati Enquirer. It's unclear why Hartmann's nomination remains in limbo, though Williams suggests it might be because the former Hamilton County commissioner publicly criticized Trump ahead of the 2016 Ohio presidential primary.

= 9 **Labor bumps up GOP donations:** Continuing a trend, four of the legislative Republicans' top five political action committee donors (and seven of their top 20 PAC donors) in 2017 were labor unions, the Dispatch's Jim Siegel reports. Such donations come as Ohio Republicans have resisted following neighboring states in passing a right-to-work law, among other measures affecting unions.

= 9 **Joe boxer:** State Sen. Joe Schiavoni, on the latest "Ohio Matters" podcast, says that he's been told that remaining in the Democratic gubernatorial primary "isn't the smartest political move that any politician has ever made" -- adding, "but who cares?" The Youngstown resident also talks about the Mahoning Valley, political corruption, and his past as a Golden Gloves boxer. Check out past podcasts here.

= 9 **Steel trap?** U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has recommended Trump impose steep tariffs or quotas on steel and aluminum imports -- a step supported by, among others, Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown. But as Koff explains, other industries in Ohio -- including automobile makers and suppliers -- say they would be hurt by such a step.

= 9 **New job:** Mark Hamlin, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's chief of staff, is taking a senior policy position at the Ohio Department of Commerce, which helps oversee the state's nascent medical marijuana program, reports cleveland.com's Jackie

Borchardt. It's unclear how big of a role Hamlin will play in the program going forward.

= 9 **Full Disclosure**

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Five things we learned from the May 12 ethics disclosure of Cleveland Heights Democrat Rep. Janine Boyd.

= 9 1. In addition to her 2016 House salary of \$60,584, she earned between \$10,000 and \$24,999 as a part-time federal policy advocate for Ohio Guidestone, a foster and family care services organization.

= 9 2. She earned \$1,000 to \$9,999 in rental income from a home in Cleveland Heights.

= A 3. She has retirement funds with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, Ascensus and Prudential. She has a money market with PNC Bank.

= 9

4. She owed at least \$1,000 each in 2016 to American Education Services, a Capital One credit card, a Lowe's credit card, a Pottery Barn credit card, the Classic Madison dealership and Quicken Loans mortgage.

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5. She received gifts worth at least \$75 from actor Jackson Biesecker, the Ohio Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee.

= 9 **On The Move**

= 9 Chris Binder has been hired as campaign manager for Democratic Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor's bid for Ohio's 12th U.S. House seat, vacated by Pat Tiberi. Binder formerly was campaign coordinator for the successful 2015 campaign of Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards.

= 9

Also, O'Connor's campaign announced it hired AKPD Message and Media as a media consultant and The Strategy Group for direct mail.

= 9 **What's Going On Today**

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10 a.m. – Lawmakers to unveil bill in reaction to transgender ruling: Rep.

Tom Brinkman, along with other legislators and conservative activists, are slated to announce legislation and other actions in response to a recent Hamilton County court ruling that a transgender teen can undergo hormone therapy despite objections from the teen's parents. *Hamilton County Courthouse steps, 1000 Main St., Cincinnati.*

= 9 10:45 a.m. – Rich Cordray to campaign with Nan Whaley in Dayton: The Democratic gubernatorial candidate is set to appear with the mayor of Dayton and other local leaders to discuss pre-K expansion. *Rainbow Years Child Care, 2727 Smithville Rd., Dayton.*

= 9

1:30 p.m. – Controlling Board. *North Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= 9 7 to 9 p.m. – Ohio 12th Congressional District candidate forum: The event, held by Indivisible Ohio District 12 and ProgressOhio, will feature all seven Democratic candidates, as well as Republican candidate Lawrence Cohen and Green Party candidate Joe Manchik. *First Unitarian Universalist of Columbus, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd.*

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Birthdays

= 9 Rep. Niraj Antani

= 9

Straight From The Source

= 9 "We'll get through this as we always do, by working together."

= 9

- Gov. John Kasich, in a statement Saturday announcing an emergency declaration in support of 17 Ohio counties affected by flooding.

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Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 2/26/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/26/2018



FUTURE UNCERTAIN AS OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD SITS IDLE

The future of Ohio's once-powerful higher education advisory board remains uncertain as lawmakers move to change the way the state oversees education.

OHIO MOVES TO ADD WRIGHT FLYER TO STATE SEAL AMID DISPUTE

Ohio is staking another public claim to the Wright brothers' legacy amid a dispute with Connecticut over an aviator that state says flew first.

GOP GOVERNOR TAPS ADVISERS FOR GUN POLICY TALKS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has convened a diverse group of advisers on gun policy to help him come up with a consensus policy proposal that he can bring forward in the coming days.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAY ARRIVE LATE IN OHIO

From litigation to audits to legislation, the attempted fixes are piling up for an Ohio medical marijuana program that has been beset by problems.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HOPE TO WIN BACK TRUMP

VOTERS

Getting Ohio Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump back into the fold was a theme Sunday as Democratic candidates for governor appeared before the public in Marysville.

KASICH FAVORS ARMING TEACHERS, AGAINST 'STAND YOUR GROUND'

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is hoping that a group he's quietly convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly.

FRUSTRATED ACTIVIST BASHES KASICH, EYES RECREATIONAL WEED

An architect of Ohio's medical marijuana law Friday accused Gov. John Kasich of intentionally torpedoing the state's program, which is supposed to start in September.

UNION MONEY NOW FUELS GOP LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS IN OHIO

Ohio has increasingly become an island among states that have passed a right-to-work law — an initiative strongly opposed by labor unions.

NEARLY NEW LINEUP AT DEMOCRATS' NEXT OHIO GOVERNOR DEBATE IN TOLEDO

When four Democratic candidates for Ohio governor gathered for a debate in Columbus in October, they spent their time discussing Ohio's opioid crisis, the scandal surrounding online charter school ECOT, and the financial cost to local communities of state tax breaks for businesses.

KASICH ASSAILS DEMOCRATS FOR LACKING AGENDA

Launching a spirited attack against the Democratic Party, Ohio Gov. John Kasich charged he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

CAPITOL INSIDER: KASICH CHANGES HIS TUNE ON 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' VOTE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's evolution on gun issues apparently continues.

EDITORIAL: DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

Gun-rights advocates in the Ohio House of Representatives had every reason to expect House Bill 228 to pass easily, further dismantling the state's already-flimsy regulation of deadly weapons.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ER POLICY CRITICIZED BY OHIO

LAWMAKERS

Several Democratic state lawmakers want to penalize Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for a new policy that does not cover some emergency room visits deemed by the insurer not to be emergencies.

THE PLAIN DEALER

KASICH, OTHER GOVERNORS RESTATE NATIONAL NEED TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska came to the nation's capital Friday to remind policy makers, businesses and the public: There's still much work to do on health care.

'YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET PUNCHED, AT LEAST IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MINUTE' OHIO MATTERS: EPISODE 6 - JOE SCHIAVONI

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni acknowledges the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been a tough fight so far.

REPUBLICAN OHIO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES SUPPORT ARMING TEACHERS TO HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Both Republican candidates for Ohio governor say they support arming teachers as part of an approach to prevent further school shootings.

STATE EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS PROCESSED BY ANTHEM NOT AFFECTED BY NEW ER RULE

State employees are not affected by a new Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield rule that leaves some policyholders with emergency-room bills when the company determines they didn't need emergency care.

OHIO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BALLOT MEASURE MIGHT NOT HAPPEN IN 2018, BACKER SAYS

Ohioans hoping to vote to legalize recreational marijuana this year will likely have to wait a little longer, perhaps as long as two years.

FACT CHECK: OHIO DEMOCRATS TAKE FRANK LAROSE'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT

The Ohio Democratic Party on Friday circulated a 13-second audio recording of Republican Frank LaRose, a candidate for secretary of state, claiming that he was bragging about a Republican plan to gerrymander states across the country, including Ohio in 2011.

MARY TAYLOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS NEW JOB WITH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

A longtime Kasich administration staffer has a new job advising Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program, but few details were available Friday about what he will do in the new role.

ROLL OF SHAME OF OHIO LAWMAKERS WHO OVERRODE GOP GOV. TAFT'S 2006 VETO, ENDING CITIES' BANS ON MASSACRE-CAPABLE WEAPONS: THOMAS SUDDER

Some Ohioans sincerely believe the Second Amendment trumps any attempt to regulate massacre-capable guns.

FIRSTENERGY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO POCKET CORPORATE-TAX-CUT WINDFALL AND SHORT CUSTOMERS: EDITORIAL

The last time U.S. corporate tax rates were slashed, during the Reagan administration, some state utility regulators were slow off the mark in making sure investor-owned utilities didn't just pocket the profits without adjusting consumer bills, The New York Times reports.

THE ENQUIRER

**THE NRA HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OHIO REPUBLICANS
– AND DEMOCRATS.**

The National Rifle Association has long supported Republicans around the country, and vice versa.

THE BLADE
One of America's Great Newspapers

LITIGATION PROCEEDS OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING

A lawsuit that could endanger the timeline for Ohio's rollout of its fledgling medical marijuana program will forge ahead despite proposed legislation to give the state a chance to correct licensing flaws.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: ICYMI: In a piece for National Review Buckeye's Robert Alt looks the funding of Janus v. AFSCME

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In a **piece for National Review**, Buckeye's Robert Alt looks at the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

NATIONAL REVIEW

The Money Behind *Janus*: It's Deja vu All Over Again

National Review
By Robert Alt
February 26, 2018

This morning, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. The case asks a similar question to one raised just two years ago in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* - namely whether forcing a public employee to choose between subsidizing a union's political speech or being subject to termination for failure to do so violates the First Amendment.

Coming so soon after *Friedrichs* - a case in which the Court deadlocked 4-4 after the tragic and untimely death of Justice Scalia - *Janus* has a déjà vu quality to it. The sense that we have seen all of this before is nowhere more palpable than in the public arguments marshaled by some of the more liberal elements of the media against Mark Janus's case.

Bereft of sufficient legal arguments to justify the First Amendment violations perpetuated against public servants, left-wing publications have resorted to attacking the messenger. Mark Janus, a child-support specialist for the state of Illinois, is accused of being an agent of big corporations and billionaires. The proof? The public-interest law firms that represent Mr. Janus - namely Liberty Justice Center and the National Right to Work Legal Foundation - are accused of taking donations from charitable foundations that support free-market policy.

Just as in *Friedrichs*, it is perfectly unsurprising that foundations and individuals voluntarily would give to non-profit, public-interest law firms that provide free representation to their clients. Indeed, public-interest firms on both the left and the right regularly rely on charitable donations to carry out their work.

What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case. Why would he pay for the lawyers arguing against him? Because he has no choice. Mark is required to pay agency fees to the union, which are used for chargeable expenses like litigation, or he can be fired. And, of course, he is required to pay for political collective bargaining speech, or he can be fired.

This is the real story of the money behind the *Janus* case-a story of forced contributions for political speech. But the story could have a happy ending. The Supreme Court will hear arguments today in a case that could vindicate the First Amendment rights of

millions of Americans like Mark Janus. For Rebecca Friedrichs, for Mark Janus, and for all the workers who are being denied a voice and a choice, let's hope that the second time is the charm.

Robert Alt is the president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2018

After Attending Oral Arguments in Janus v. AFSCME, Buckeye's Robert Alt Reacts

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement after attending the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31* at the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Today, Mark Janus, and all hard-working public employees, had their day in court. Mr. Janus's lawsuit has the potential to be one of the most important labor and free speech cases in the past 40 years.

"Justice Kennedy, who is traditionally a swing vote on the Supreme Court, asked very tough questions of the union lawyers, in which he expressed major concerns about the speech at issue being both compelled and political. Given how frequently Justice Kennedy

is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree.

"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy. Standing up for your rights and the rights of others is rarely an easy thing to do, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."

The Buckeye Institute **filed briefs** with the Supreme Court of the United States supporting the free speech rights of public employees like Mr. Janus.

###

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2018

The Buckeye Institute Reacts to 2018 Capital Budget, Urges Spending to Focus on Physical and Democratic Infrastructure Needs

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement on the introduction on the 2018 capital budget, **Senate Bill 266** and **House Bill 529**.

"With the capital budget officially introduced, Ohioans will now be able to see how many millions of dollars are being appropriately spent on critical infrastructure and core government services versus being set aside for pet local projects and pork spending," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "And rest assured, Buckeye will be reviewing the budget to see how closely it aligns to the principles we laid out in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*."

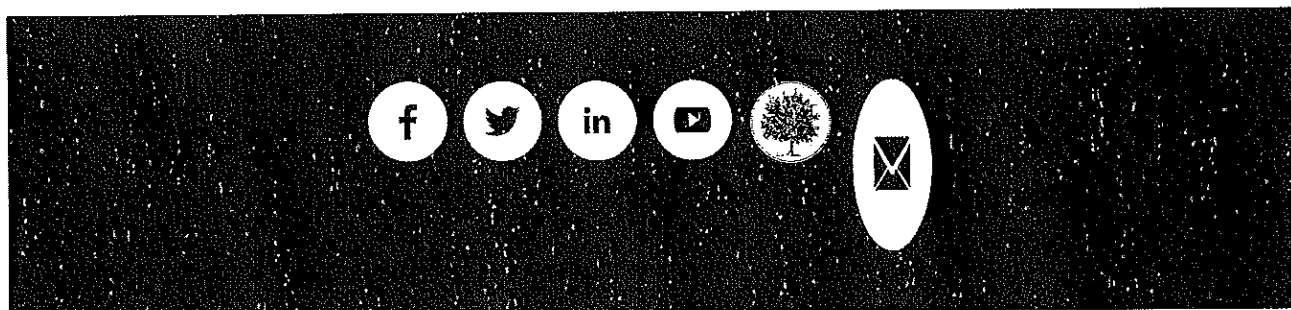
"Regardless of where the capital budget begins, policymakers still have an opportunity to adhere to these principles - constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate

and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government," Lawson continued. "Ohioans' taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen the state's physical and democratic infrastructure, not on special interest pork projects that should be funded through private means."

###

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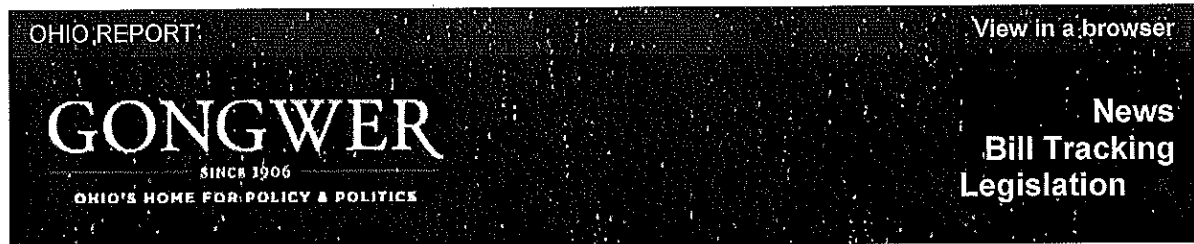
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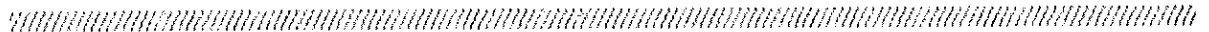
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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26



\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 27

Legislative Committees

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- HB 159** **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Riedel, C.) To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 195** **WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS** (Ingram, C., Seitz, B.) To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HCR 19** **HATE GROUPS** (Leland, D., Greenspan, D.) To denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis, to urge law enforcement to recognize white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from other manifestations of terrorism. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 336** **LICENSE FEES** (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 250** **ELECTRIC BICYCLES** (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs** (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), South Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Arthur, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services
- HB 307** **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Gonzales, A.) To designate September as "We Card Month." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 229** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Wiggam, S.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 202** **AWARENESS DAY** (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 106** **SMOKING** (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is a passenger. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 194** **LICENSE PLATES** (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (**Bacon, K.**) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 22 **TAX LAWS** (**Peterson, B.**) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 14, 2016, into Ohio law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 507 **TAX CREDIT** (**Gonzales, A.**) To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 488 **TAX LEVIES** (**Hood, R., Becker, J.**) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Mark Wasylshyn, Michael Staley, Brian Simms and Jay Beighley, Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission**

SB 66 **CRIMINAL LAWS** (**Eklund, J., Tavares, C.**) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 231 **OFFENDER DATABASE** (**Gardner, R.**) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. (2nd Hearing-Possible amendments)

- SB 171** **PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.)** To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 195** **DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.)** To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 244** **PROSTITUTION (Dolan, M., Manning, G.)** To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Finance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366**), Rm. 313, 11 a.m.
- HB 529** **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)
- HB 508** **OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.)** To establish the Ohio Corps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 378** **BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.)** To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (**Chr. Young, R., 644-6074**), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.
- HB 504** **INTERIOR DESIGNERS (Pelanda, D.)** Regarding interior designers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 263** **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.)** To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 211** **HOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.)** To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 433** **VETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.)** To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (**Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076**), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.
- HB 457** **DRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.)** To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a parolee who fails a drug test for heroin,

fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 391 **ECONOMIC LOSSES** (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (**Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041**), Rm. 017, 2 p.m.

HB 454 **CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HR 299 **DRUG USE** (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 483 **WEEK DESIGNATION** (Patterson, J.) To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered Bridge Week." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 484 **HEALTH DISTRICTS** (Brenner, A.) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in accordance with prescribed requirements. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 492 **STATE PROCUREMENT** (Gonzales, A.) To establish the women-owned business enterprise program requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 493 **MINORITY ENTERPRISES** (Gonzales, A.) To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 500 **TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (**Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091**), Rm. 313, 2 p.m.

- Note time & room change.

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

- HJR 4** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (15th Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 512** **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Reineke, B.)** To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 451** **PUBLIC RECORDS (Retherford, W.)** To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 223** **USED TIRES (LaRose, F.)** To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 10** **PRIMARY ELECTIONS (LaRose, F.)** To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 506** **DOG BREEDERS (Hill, B.)** To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 469** **TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K., Patton, T.)** To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 489** **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (Dever, J.)** To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- SB 139** **LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.)** To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 450 **HEALTH BENEFITS** (Antani, N.) To impose review and other requirements on existing health insurance mandated benefits and to establish requirements for the creation of new mandated benefits. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 342 **TAX LEVIES** (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626**), **Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.**

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Pamela Mowry, North Central State College Board of Trustees and Jo Ann Davidson and Ranjan Manoranjan, Ohio Casino Control Commission**

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (Presentation from OBM Director Tim Keen)

HB 168 **CEMETERY REGISTRATION** (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 251 **SUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS** (Greenspan, D.) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (**Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049**), **South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.**

SB 218 **MEDICAID PROVIDERS** (Lehner, P.) Regarding surety bonds and minimum training for certain Medicaid providers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB 332 **ANATOMICAL GIFTS** (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on the basis of disability. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 340 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 233 **COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION** (Thomas, C.) To allow a cottage food production operator to use a firebrick oven located on a patio at the operator's residence for purposes of the cottage food production operation (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 111 **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS** (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily

transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4 p.m.

- HB 502** **YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)** With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 503** **YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)** With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in private schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 318** **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.)** To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)
- HB 428** **STUDENT EXPRESSION (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.)** Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018." (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 491** **EDUCATION LICENSE (Edwards, J.)** To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 360** **BULLYING (Greenspan, D.)** To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- SR 342** **COLUMBUS CREW (Kunze, S.)** To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer Club to keep the franchise in Columbus. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 221** **AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.)** To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (3rd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 226** **FIREWORKS (Seitz, B., Sweeney, M.)** To establish a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 239** **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.)** To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road,
Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8:30 a.m.

Event Planner

State Auditor Dave Yost and GOP lawmakers news conference on Medicaid compliance, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Ohio Lobbying Association Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 4 p.m., (4:00 pm - Annual Meeting for OLA Members; 5:00 pm - Legislative Reception. More info and to register: http://bit.ly/2018_OLA_AM)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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Senate Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB 266 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oeislager, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.
Gongwer Coverage

SB 267 ■ **SOLICITING (Brown, E., Kunze, S.)** To increase the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is eighteen years of age or older, to specify that the fine for soliciting in this circumstance is not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, and to specify that up to one thousand dollars of that fine may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Am. 2907.24 and 5101.87

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Joint Education Oversight Committee: Senator Gayle Manning as chair .

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

SB 144 ■ **DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.)** To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; and to restore staggered terms of office for the employee members representing firefighters on the board of trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

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House Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

HB 526 ■ **SCHOOL SAFETY** (DeVitis, T., Sweeney, M.) To authorize a public or chartered nonpublic school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to provide the parties with a qualified immunity from civil liability, and to provide a tax credit for volunteer service. Am. 5747.08 and 5747.98 and to enact sections 3313.94 and 5747.64

HB 527 ■ **VISITATION RIGHTS** (LaTourette, S.) To allow certain specified persons to petition the probate court for reasonable visitation with an incompetent or ward if visitation between the person and the incompetent or ward has been interfered with or denied. Am. 2111.132

HB 528 ■ **CORPSE ABUSE** (Smith, R., Rezabek, J.) To expand the penalties for abuse of corpse offenses. Am. 2927.01 and 2929.13

HB 529 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. Am. 164.05
Gongwer Coverage

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Insurance Committee: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Lang.

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

HB 45 ■ **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Sprague, R.) To designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month."

HB 79 ■ **FIREARMS TRAINING** (Retherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement

agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

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Volume #87, Report #38 -- Monday, February 26, 2018

\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

The General Assembly is doubling its prior financial commitments for behavioral and mental health infrastructure in the capital appropriations budget that was introduced Monday.

The bill includes \$2.62 billion in new spending on bricks-and-mortar projects as well as a yet-to-be-disclosed amount of reappropriations for ongoing capital projects approved in prior biennia. The bill covers spending in Fiscal Years 2019-2020.

Companion House and Senate measures (HB 529 & SB 266) allocate \$222 million for health and human services, developmental disabilities, mental health, addiction treatment and women's health initiative facilities over the next two fiscal years.

The fast-tracked budget, which will receive first hearings in both chambers on Tuesday, also includes \$150 million in community projects - \$20 million more than the original funding target - \$600 million for school facilities, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects and \$483 million for public colleges and universities.

The state will issue bonds to fund the spending.

The expanded health and human services support funding was added in response to the growing impact of the opiate epidemic, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said.

"So where in the prior budgets you may have seen a few of these pop up, I think it's on the minds of a lot of people and we all recognize that these are some of the more important issues facing the state of Ohio and these are some of the things we chose to prioritize."

Some of the projects set to receive a chunk of the \$222 million are Alvis House and Maryhaven in Columbus, President Obhof said. The respective \$300,000 and \$125,000 projects would add about 260 additional treatment beds for addicts in Franklin County.

"We see these things throughout the state and not just in Franklin County, in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties but in some of rural areas as well," Sen. Obhof said. "There are number of requests that are being funded from members throughout the state of Ohio for things like that."

Of the total allocation for such infrastructure plans, \$20 million will be provided through competitive grants, which were proposed by Gov. John Kasich. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

So-called community resiliency projects that focus on expanding spaces for youth programming would receive the funding, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton). The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and local groups will likely select the recipients.

"We recognize the need there and listened very carefully to the community," he said of the funding dedicated to combatting the opiate epidemic and related issues.

While that area of the budget saw a boost, overall capital appropriations shrunk by about \$10 million from the last budget, Sen. Obhof said. He's hopeful, however, that it will have a similar reach.

"We think that due to sound fiscal management and the hard work we put in in the main operating budget last year, we do have the capacity for the bonding and the funding of various projects throughout the state that you see in the bill," he told reporters after the legislation was introduced.

Leaders of both parties in each chamber worked together to iron out the details prior to the measure's introduction Monday, making it ripe for quick passage.

President Obhof said he expects a Senate vote on the House version - which will serve as the vehicle for the budget - in the week before spring break, which is set to begin in late March.

Local projects were brought forward by individual members for consideration while community colleges and universities created their own priority funding packages. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 22, 2017)

"This capital budget will give the legislature a tremendous opportunity to address several infrastructure and construction projects that will generate a positive return on investment for communities all across the state," Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said in a statement. "I want to commend the members of the legislature and local leaders for their collaboration and commitment to helping improve the lives of so many Ohioans through this legislation."

The capital budget has historically drawn bipartisan support as lawmakers look to support money funneled to projects in their communities. That trend is expected to continue this year.

"As legislators, we review capital budget applications, meet with individuals and organizations and visit project sites. You can't help but become passionate about what we can do to invest in Ohio's infrastructure and improve the community," Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) said. "Although it's unfortunate that we can't fund every much-needed community project that comes to our attention, I am happy with the progress that will be made through the capital budget."

If the capital bill process follows those of prior years, no major changes will occur during deliberations unless there are problems with the bill. The last several capital budgets passed with few if any amendments once they were introduced.

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced that he has filed a lawsuit against four drug distributors for their role in the opioid epidemic.

The lawsuit, filed in Madison County Common Pleas Court, alleges that the drug distributors were negligent in over-supplying addictive opioid prescription drugs.

"We believe the evidence will show that these companies ignored their duties as drug distributors to ensure that opioids were not being diverted for improper use. They knew the amount of opioids allowed to flow into Ohio far exceeded what could be consumed for medically-necessary purposes, but they did nothing to stop it," AG Mike DeWine said in a statement.

"And much like the drug manufacturers who continue to fail to do the right thing, these distributors are doing precious little to take responsibility for their actions and help pay for the damage they have caused."

Named in the lawsuit are McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and its subsidiaries, AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation and Miami-Luken, Inc.

Cardinal Health in a statement said it has been cooperating to "alleviate the public health crisis and save lives" through a multi-state effort led by 40 attorneys general and a multi-jurisdictional effort in Cleveland.

"We are extremely disappointed that Attorney General DeWine chose to go outside of these established processes at this critical moment in time to file this unfounded lawsuit," the company said in a statement.

The company went on to say that it cares deeply about the opioid epidemic and that there must be work toward meaningful solutions.

"This is why we launched our Opioid Action Program which augments our substantial efforts to combat opioid abuse and is providing funds and support for take back efforts, Narcan giveaways for first responders, and grants for communities looking to find holistic solutions to this public health issue throughout Ohio," it said.

"Cardinal Health has made a significant investment in state-of-the-art controls to effectively combat the diversion of pain medications from legitimate uses. We believe this kind of effort and investment, and not baseless litigation, is the way to alleviate this problem."

The lawsuit alleges that the companies fueled the opioid epidemic by distributing enough of the drugs to fill more than 11.8 million prescriptions from 2011 to 2016, amounting to dosages that averaged more than 739 million each year.

The drug epidemic has resulted in annual damages in excess of \$1 billion, the lawsuit alleges. Those costs include medical care; treatment for infants born with opioid-related medical conditions; public safety measures; substance abuse prevention; and welfare and social services for the children of addicted parents.

The lawsuit also alleges that more than 7,000 Ohioans have died due to the opioid crisis.

The companies "have supplied and continue to supply quantities of prescription opioids in and around Ohio without taking proper measures based on their actual or constructive knowledge that individuals were consuming opioids for non-medical purposes," the lawsuit reads.

Among the remedies Mr. DeWine is seeking are punitive and compensatory damages.

This marks the second lawsuit the AG has filed against drug companies over the opioid crisis. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017)

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Controlling Board members Monday approved more funding for state information technology projects after raising questions about performance-based contracts and the state's savings from consolidating services.

The requests from the Department of Administrative Services included one worth nearly \$24.8 million for the state's main IT services delivery line item, which has increased over the years due to the consolidation, DAS Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Leymaster told the board.

The other request, for \$4.4 million, dealt specifically with a pair of projects involving nine agencies, she said.

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) asked if the state's IT contracts have performance clauses for the timing of delivery or for the accountability of functions.

The request Monday didn't deal with specific contracts, just the appropriation changes needed to cover contract costs, Ms. Leymaster said.

"We'd be happy to see if individual contracts have the type of controls that you're asking about," she said.

Ms. Leymaster told Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that the projects are part of a broader optimization project that has saved the state more than \$160 million since its inception.

The board also approved two significant funding requests from the Development Services Agency to support affordable housing after Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked about cost containment measures and access for people with disabilities.

The requests included \$13.6 million for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to administer the Housing Development Assistance Program, and \$5.5 million for housing assistance programs across the state.

Kelan Craig, director of planning, preservation and development at the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said the administration has worked to ensure projects are done effectively at low cost.

As for accessibility for people with disabilities, there are specific requirements for projects targeted at seniors and for permanent supportive housing developments, but not for standard affordable housing, he said.

"Let's just watch that and make sure we don't have a problem with that," Sen. Coley said.

A request by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for \$1.1 million to replace the emergency generator at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens was approved after Sen. Coley asked about the hospital's involvement in plans to participate in peak demand emergency programs.

Stephen Wilson, legislative liaison for ODMHAS, said the state found it would only save a couple thousand dollars to participate in the utility's peak demand program, while placing strict requirements on hospital staff.

Sen. Coley said the programs can help other facilities, such as industries and schools, when the power goes down.

"Hospitals around the state are finding great benefits to these programs," he said.

In total, the board approved 82 requests for funding.

Other items approved included: (Agenda)

- \$2.9 million - Central State University - for repair and modernization of the Hallie Q. Brown Memorial Library.
- \$11.7 million - Cleveland State University - to contract for an addition project at Fenn Hall.

- \$1.9 million - Cuyahoga Community College - to buy 12.82 acres of real estate in Euclid for the expansion of the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Academy.
- \$1 million - Adjutant General's Department - for masonry renovation and HVAC work at the Hamilton Readiness Center in Butler County.
- \$4.6 million - DAS - for administration of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.
- \$2.3 million - Department of Agriculture - for lab supplies and equipment.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - for emergency generator replacement at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens.
- \$1.6 million - Bureau of Motor Vehicles - for federal grants to purchase and install document scanners and update existing computer systems to confirm commercial driver's license applicants provided proof of citizenship or permanent residency.
- \$10.5 million - Facilities Construction Commission - for master facilities plan amendments from Elida Local School District and Bloom-Carroll Local School District.

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Can a juvenile adjudication be used to satisfy an element of a crime committed as an adult?

Anthony Carnes will argue that it can't in a case the Ohio Supreme Court is set to hear Tuesday.

Mr. Carnes was charged with a third-degree felony offense of weapon-under-disability based on a 1994 juvenile adjudication. He moved to have the charge dismissed, but the trial court denied his motion.

The First District Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's decision. But Mr. Carnes argued that both court erred in their decisions.

"Simply put, juvenile adjudications are not criminal convictions and should not be viewed as such. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that Ohio's juvenile system uses two different approaches, one mandatory and one discretionary, to transfer its most severe offenders into the adult system, and has a process to include an adult sentence with a juvenile rehabilitation for the next most serious level of offenders," his merit brief reads.

"In line with that approach, this court has prohibited juvenile adjudications from increasing punishment for subsequent adult conduct. Given that framework, it is incongruous for such adjudications to be permitted to turn what would otherwise be lawful conduct into a crime. Thus, a juvenile adjudication should not be deemed to meet an element of an offense charged against an adult."

The Juvenile Law Center and the Buckeye Firearms Association both weighed in on the case on behalf of Mr. Carnes.

"Individuals with Ohio juvenile adjudications do not fit into the long standing prohibition on the possession of firearms by felons because they simply are not felons by definition," the BFA wrote in its amicus brief.

The state, however, argues that a juvenile adjudication cannot be used to enhance a penalty, but it can be used as an element of a crime. The state also contends that if the court were to side with Mr. Carnes it would gut the state's law prohibiting the possession of a weapon under disability.

Under the law, "there are multiple means of being placed under a disability that do not include the right to a jury trial: being a fugitive from justice, being under indictment for a felony offense of violence, being under indictment for a felony drug offense, being drug dependent or in danger of drug dependence, being a chronic alcoholic, and being adjudicated mentally incompetent. Just as is the case with a juvenile adjudication, none of those situations carries a right to a jury trial - state," the state writes.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office has also asked the court to affirm the First District ruling.

"Persons who commit violent felony offenses are considered bad risks who should not be allowed to legally possess a firearm. The fact that a person who commits the violent felony offense as a juvenile does not make that person any less of a bad risk," it wrote in an amicus brief.

"But Ohio's weapons disability law recognizes that people can turn their lives around and become law-abiding citizens after committing a single indiscretion or even after committing a series of crimes decades ago. That person can legally possess a firearm after following the appropriate statutory remedy; but until that time, the person should not be able to possess a firearm under Ohio law."

Three district court judges will be involved in the case because Justice Sharron Kennedy, Justice Patrick Fischer and Justice Patrick DeWine have recused themselves.

Justice DeWine concurred in judgement only with the First District's opinion upholding the trial court's decision to deny the motion to dismiss the charge.

The high court is set to hear two other cases Tuesday, it reported:

Legalize it: That's what proponents of a ballot initiative hope to do during the November election. The Statehouse News Bureau's Jo Ingles reports the group backing the "all-out" marijuana legalization effort may introduce it in the next couple of weeks.

Budget woes: Cleveland.com's Stephen Koff and Sabrina Eaton report that President Donald Trump's proposed budget would cut money for hiring cops, transportation, food assistance and Lake Erie cleanup while increasing money for combating opioid abuse. And, per The Plain Dealer's Grant Segall, the budget would give a boost to NASA's Glenn Research Center.

ECOT up: The state school board decided Monday to recover more than \$19 million from ECOT, The Plain Dealer's Patrick O'Donnell reports. The vote affirmed earlier findings by the Department of Education and doesn't add money to the \$80 million ECOT has been reported to owe the state.

Overdoses: Ohio's overdose problem is getting worse, writes the Columbus Dispatch's Randy Ludlow. Drug overdose rates climbed 39 percent, making it the third-largest increase among all the states.

The Big D: If you're looking for the place with the fastest job growth in the state, you'll have to look outside Cleveland (0.2 percent), Columbus (1.4 percent) and Cincinnati (0.4 percent). As the Dayton Daily News reports, employment in the Dayton metro area grew 2.8 percent between December 2016 and December 2017.

Full Disclosure

Five things we learned from Cleveland Democrat Sen. Sandra Williams' May 12 financial disclosure statement:

1. in addition to earning \$65,584 in the Senate in 2016, she earned \$1,000 to \$9,999 as a professor at Cleveland State University.
2. She owed at least \$1,000 each to Credit Union of Ohio, Third Federal Bank, Federal Loan Servicing Center, Capital One, Wells Fargo, Katzel (whom she identified as a dentist), Sam's Club, Ann Taylor, Dillard's, Home

Shopping Network and Charter One.

3. She racked up \$6,573.84 in mileage between home and Columbus.

4. Community Blight Solutions paid for dinner worth \$214.94 when she was in Israel – a \$1,127.39 trip that the Jewish Federation of North America paid for.

5. In addition to Israel, Williams also went on trips paid for by the Urban Agriculture Academy (\$1,000), Women in Government (\$1,450), the German Marshall Fund (\$450) and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (\$500).

On The Move

Trevor L. Brown has been named the inaugural executive director of the newly created State of Ohio Leadership Institute, created last year to provide training and education to elected officials. Brown will continue to serve as dean of Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Tod Bowen has been hired as the Ohio Restaurant Association's new managing director of sales and growth. Bowen previously was founder/president of New Century Solutions, a political consulting and fundraising firm with ties to Gov. John Kasich.

What's Going On

10 a.m. – Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness. *Board Room, State Library of Ohio, 274 East First Ave.*

10:30 a.m. – U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan news conference: The Youngstown-area Democrat plans to meet with the media after touring Camp Ravenna's Joint Military Training Center. *Camp Ravenna, 8451 State Route 5, Ravenna.*

11 a.m. – Policy Matters Ohio to release policy recommendations: The liberal group plans to issue a report titled "A new way forward: 10 ways to

support Ohio's working people." *ProgressOhio Offices, Second Floor Conference Room, Suite 404, 35 East Gay St.*

11 a.m. – Ohio Statehouse to unveil historic painting of Lincoln. *The Hall of the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Statehouse.*

Noon – Black History Month performance: The 45-minute show will feature Paisha Thomas performing "Stories and Songs of the Black Experience." *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

1:30 p.m. – House Criminal Justice Committee: The committee may amend House Bill 355, which would expressly ban "sexting" in Ohio by people younger than 21. *Room 114, Ohio Statehouse.*

3 p.m. – House Public Utilities Committee: The panel may adopt a substitute bill for and vote to report House Bill 402, a deregulation bill for local telephone companies. *Room 116, Ohio Statehouse.*

5 to 7 p.m. – Ohio Council of County Officials' legislative reception: Open to all lawmakers. *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Ohio House Democratic Caucus Mardi Gras Party: Sponsor levels range from \$50 to \$2,500. *Rambling House Soda, 310 E. Hudson St.*

6 p.m. – Jon Husted to speak in Holmes County: The secretary of state and candidate for lieutenant governor is slated to keynote the Holmes County GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner. *Carlisle Village Inn, 4949 Walnut St., Walnut Creek.*

Birthdays

Rep. Bill Patmon
Kelly Kefauver, Ohio Senate Democrats' policy adviser

Straight From The Source

"We must not allow a political regulatory scheme to close Toledo's remaining abortion clinic. Its absence would not diminish the number of abortions but would increase the injury and death of women in my home city and state. Democracy begins with each person's control of his or her own body. Without reproductive freedom, there is no democracy for America women."

- Feminist leader and Toledo native Gloria Steinem, in a statement on Monday after the Ohio Supreme Court upheld a state order to shutter Capital Care.

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Tuesday, February 13, 2018

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Today's Stories

- [Pillich Expected to End Gubernatorial Campaign Wednesday](#)
- [Chief Justice Suggests ECOT's Enrollment-Minus-Participation Argument Leads to 'Absurd Result'](#)
- [ProMedica Signs Transfer Agreement with Toledo Abortion Clinic](#)
- [CSRAB Unveils Painting of Lincoln Addressing General Assembly](#)
- [Liberal Groups Slam 'Right-to-Work' Proposals, Offer Policy Alternatives](#)
- ['Sexting' Ban Gets First Hearing](#)
- [Legislation Conforming Ohio Law to New Federal Tax Law Begins Hearings in House](#)
- [HB228 Draws Wide Range of Testimony on Gun, Self-Defense Issues](#)
- [School Board Talks Graduation, ECOT Response, Machine Scoring of Tests](#)
- [AEP Draws Vocal Support for Clean Energy Plan in First Public Hearing on ESP](#)
- [Hambley, Sweeney Introduce 'Ohio Proud Craft Beer Act'](#)
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New Buckeye Institute Policy Brief Highlights the Problems with Government-Owned Broadband Networks

Columbus, OH -- In The Buckeye Institute's most recent policy brief, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers*, Greg R. Lawson looks at the problems with government-owned and run networks and their high cost to taxpayers.

"Government-owned networks have been springing up across the nation for years and Ohio is no stranger to these government-owned and controlled projects that unfairly compete with the private sector," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "While these GONs might seem alluring, they frequently fail to live up to the promises

made by government officials, and have often led to taxpayer subsidization to maintain operations."

In the paper, Lawson looks at two Ohio case studies, the City of Lebanon and Medina County. The network in Lebanon was plagued with problems almost from the start, as was outlined in a **Buckeye report** in 2006, and was eventually sold to Cincinnati Bell at a loss. Unfortunately, Medina County did not heed the warning signs that Lebanon's experience offered, and according to the Medina County Port Authority's chief operating officer, a mere 140 customers are connected to the network and the county commissioners have already had to subsidize the network twice to the tune of \$1.6 million.

Lawson also outlines a number of problems with government-owned networks, most notably the high cost to taxpayers and the poor service provided, which were highlighted in a **University of Pennsylvania Law School report**. The study found that in the 20 GONs it reviewed, 11 generated a negative cash flow, and of the nine cash-flow positive projects, five of them would take more than 100 years to recover their costs while two would take more than 60 years.

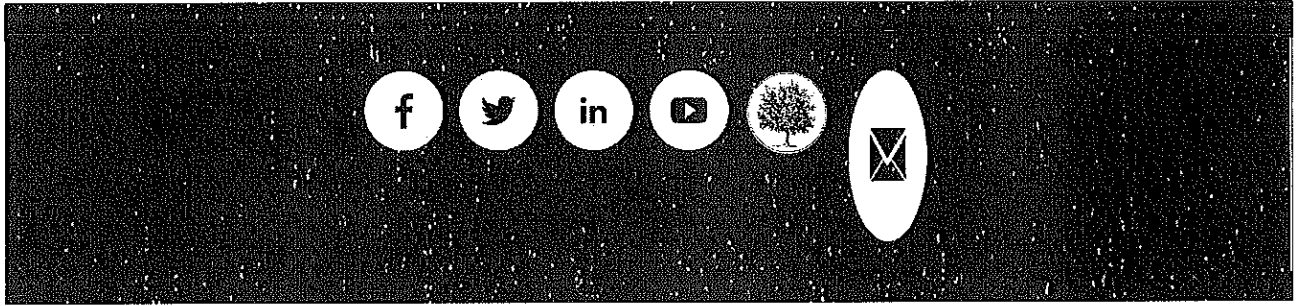
"Ohio's state and local policymakers should take a long hard look at broadband "GON" wrong in the City of Lebanon and Medina County before venturing into new government-owned networks," Lawson stated in the paper. "Local governments should focus their money and attention on providing their citizens with safe roads and drinking water, and let the private sector worry about adding new internet users."

Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers was authored by Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

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Figure 1: Schematic diagram of the experimental setup. A cylindrical sample of diameter d and height h is placed in a fluid with viscosity η . A magnetic field B is applied along the axis, and a current I is applied to the sample. The central hole has a radius r .

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## Ohio Supreme Court hears arguments in online charter school case

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Source: Billich to leave governor's race, back Cordray (Associated Press).

**Bortman 'shocked' ex-aide accused of abuse (Cincinnati Enquirer)**

**Sole female Dem in gubernatorial race to quit (Cincinnati Enquirer)**

**Connie Billich expected to drop out of the governor's race (Cleveland**

**Connie Pillich expected to drop out of the governor's race (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**

**Lawmakers must rewrite Ohio bill to reflect new federal tax rules  
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**

**Ohio's charter school quality crackdown claims a big-city victim - the Cincinnati school district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**

**Skill games to be regulated by Ohio Casino Control Commission  
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**

**Chief justice to ECOT attorney: 'How is that not absurd?' (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**Kasich chosen to address graduates of Kennedy School in May  
(Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**New report from pro-labor group pans right-to-work proposals  
(Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**Ohio wants to require those on Medicaid to get a job (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**Pillich to leave race for governor, back Cordray (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**Podcast: A discussion with gubernatorial candidate William O'Neill  
(Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**Portman shocked at allegations of abuse by former aide (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**President Trump jokes with Sherrod Brown on DACA (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

**Ohio considers raising child marriage age after DDN investigation  
(Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)**

**Portman's vetting of staffer didn't turn up complaints of wife abuse  
(Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)**

**Vicious dogs: Ohio moves to change laws on dog owners (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)**

**ECOT asks high court to restore its funding (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)**

**Toledo's only abortion clinic now in time race to get transfer agreement signed (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)**

## **EDITORIALS**

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**Unconscionable failure by Ohio Justices O'Donnell, DeWine to recuse in ECOT case after taking thousands in campaign dollars: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**

**Great Lakes once again in budget crosshairs (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)**

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## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2018



### **HOSPITAL PACT MIGHT SAVE TOLEDO ABORTION CLINIC**

A hospital system has authorized a patient-transfer agreement to keep the last abortion clinic in Toledo operating.



### **PILLICH TO LEAVE RACE FOR GOVERNOR, BACK CORDRAY**

Only one of the original Democrats running for governor will still be in the race after Wednesday.

### **OHIO WANTS TO REQUIRE THOSE ON MEDICAID TO GET A JOB**

Thousands of Ohioans soon might need to find a job or lose their Medicaid health insurance.

### **KASICH CHOSEN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES OF KENNEDY SCHOOL IN MAY**

Gov. Kasich will address the 2018 graduates of the Harvard Kennedy School in May, the dean of the school said Tuesday.

### **CHIEF JUSTICE ON ECOT CLAIM FOR STATE MONEY: 'HOW IS THAT NOT ABSURD?'**

As ECOT attorney Marion Little finished his arguments for why, under the law, the online school should get full funding for students even if they only log in once a month and do no work, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor interjected.

### **KASICH POSTPONES FOREIGN TRIP TO ATTEND OFFICERS' FUNERAL IN WESTERVILLE**

Long-time Westerville resident Gov. John Kasich is postponing a foreign trade trip to attend the Friday funeral of two police officers slain in his hometown on Saturday.

### **A FIFTH OF OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NEED HELP TO EARN A DIPLOMA THIS YEAR**



Less than five months from graduation, one out of five Ohio high school seniors still wouldn't qualify for a diploma under more-stringent state standards — requirements that at least temporarily have been softened to avert just such a crisis.

### **NEW REPORT FROM PRO-LABOR GROUP PANS RIGHT-TO-WORK PROPOSALS**

In the wake of proposed right-to-work amendments by Republican lawmakers, a newly released report is recommending politicians can support Ohio workers by backing off of regulating unions.

## **Dayton Daily News**

[www.daytondailynews.com](http://www.daytondailynews.com)

### **OHIO CONSIDERS RAISING CHILD MARRIAGE AGE AFTER DDN INVESTIGATION**

An investigation by the Dayton Daily News into child marriage is prompting state lawmakers to introduce a bill that would bump up the legal marriage age to 18 for both males and females and allow 17-year-olds to marry with court approval.

### **VICIOUS DOGS: OHIO MOVES TO CHANGE LAWS ON DOG OWNERS**

Four years after the gruesome attack that killed Dayton resident Klonda Richey, state lawmakers are taking a double barrel approach to finally putting more teeth in the state's vicious dog laws.

### **CINCINNATI DEMOCRAT CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO LEAVE GOVERNOR'S RACE**

Former state representative Connie Pillich — the last woman leading a Democratic ticket for governor — is expected to drop out of the race and endorse former attorney general Rich Cordray on Wednesday, sources close to the campaign said.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOL QUALITY CRACKDOWN CLAIMS A BIG-CITY VICTIM - THE CINCINNATI SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Ohio's push to improve charter school quality has booted a major city school district - the Cincinnati Public Schools - out of the charter school business.

### **CONNIE PILLICH EXPECTED TO DROP OUT OF THE GOVERNOR'S RACE**

Connie Pillich, the lone remaining Democratic woman running for governor in what was supposed to be the "year of the woman," will drop out of the race Wednesday to endorse Richard Cordray, according to two Democratic sources.

### **ECOT FUNDING QUESTIONED BY OHIO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: "HOW IS IT NOT ABSURD?"**

Ohio Supreme Court justices were wary this morning of how the ECOT online charter school wants to be funded as the school and Ohio Department of Education pleaded their cases to the court.

**UNCONSCIONABLE FAILURE BY OHIO JUSTICES O'DONNELL, DeWINE TO  
RECUSE IN ECOT CASE AFTER TAKING THOUSANDS IN CAMPAIGN DOLLARS:  
EDITORIAL**

The seven-member Ohio Supreme Court is hearing arguments this morning in a case whose outcome may kill or revive the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, or ECOT, the online charter school that shut down last month.

## THE ENQUIRER

**CONNIE PILLICH TO END GUBERNATORIAL BID; ENDORSE CORDRAY. WAS THE  
LONE FEMALE DEMOCRAT IN THE RACE**

In the so-called "year of the woman," the sole female in the Democratic race for governor will bow out to endorse former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director Richard Cordray.

**DEMOCRAT KATHY WYENANDT FILES TO RUN IN OHIO 52ND DISTRICT**

Democrat Kathy Wyenandt is challenging Republican George Lang for his Ohio House seat.

## THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

**ECOT ASKS HIGH COURT TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING**

Clinging to hope of reopening its virtual doors, what was once Ohio's largest online school on Tuesday urged the Ohio Supreme Court to halt state efforts to claw back tens of millions in past aid.

**PILLICH TO DROP OHIO GOVERNOR BID**

Another Democratic candidate for governor will drop out of the race Wednesday and throw her support to Richard Cordray for the party's nomination.

**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 10:03 AM  
**To:** Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** New Reason Foundation Study Offers Another Reason to Keep Capital Budget Focused on Infrastructure

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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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### New Reason Foundation Study Offers Another Reason to Keep Capital Budget Focused on Infrastructure

By Greg R. Lawson  
February 16, 2018

A **newly-released report** from the Reason Foundation, reinforces the need for state policymakers to keep the soon-to-be-released capital budget focused on repairing and building Ohio's physical infrastructure. Something The Buckeye Institute recently called for in our own report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*.

The Reason Foundation's 23rd Annual Highway Report found that **Ohio ranked** 26th in the nation in highway performance and cost-effectiveness. Not a great ranking for the country's seventh largest state with the ninth largest highway system.

And when you get into the details, the rankings don't get much better. Ohio ranked:

- 20th in deficient bridges;

- 27th in urban Interstate pavement condition;
- 23rd in urbanized area congestion;
- 28th in rural Interstate pavement condition; and
- 17th in rural arterial pavement condition.

The good news is state policymakers have an opportunity to address this problem and can do so without having to spend vast amounts of additional dollars.

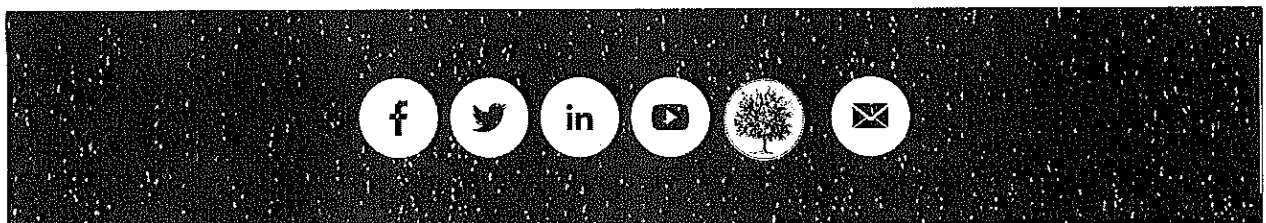
By re-focusing the portion of the capital budget typically spent on pork projects and instead spending it on repairing Ohio's roads and bridges we can begin to reverse these lackluster rankings. That will put Ohio, and Ohioans, back in the fast lane.

*Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.*

###

*Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.*

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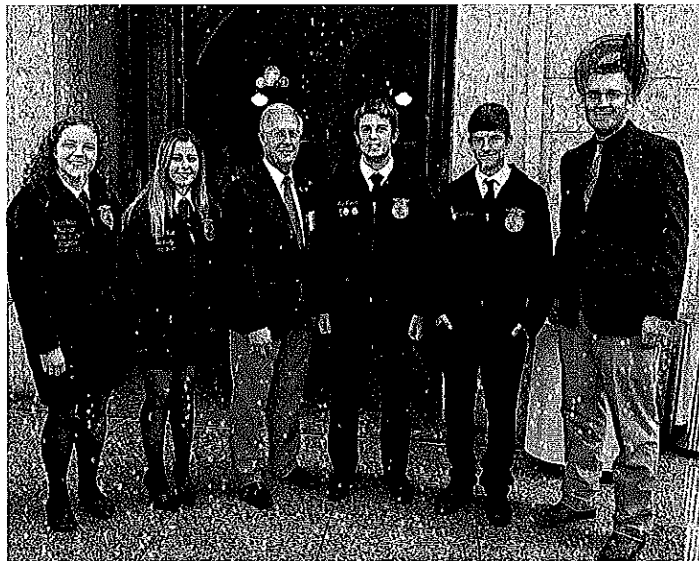
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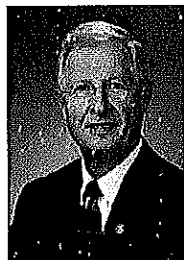
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## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER **STEVE ARNDT** STATE REPRESENTATIVE THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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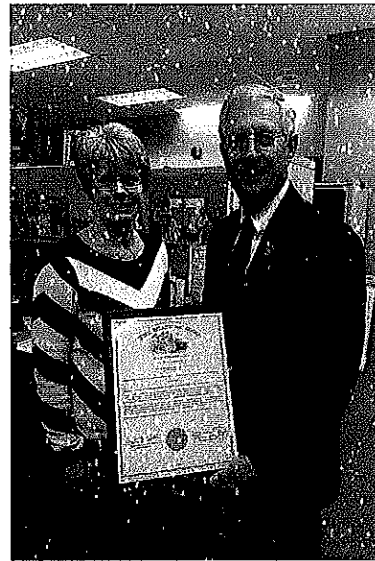
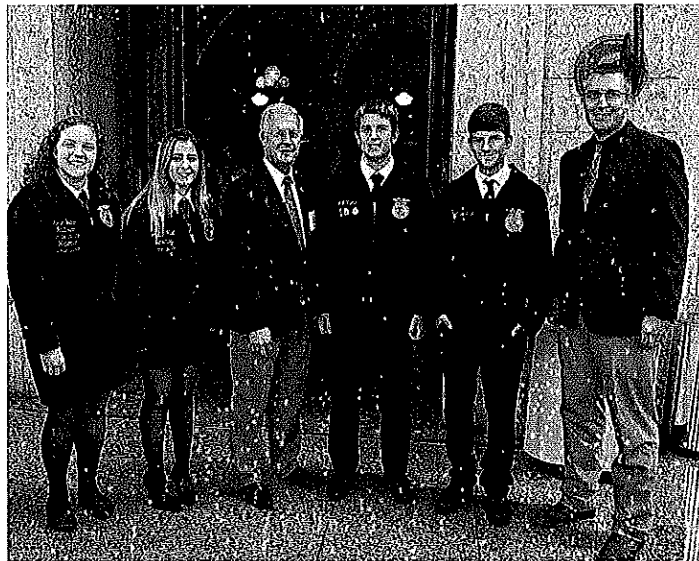
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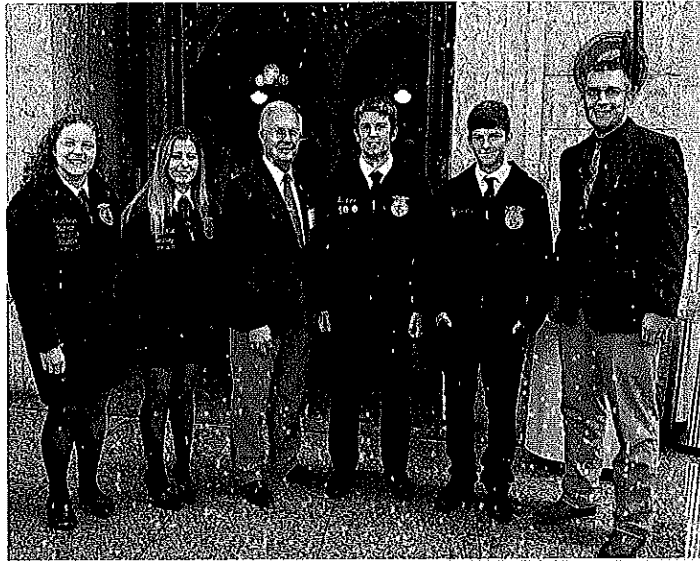
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**Cc:** Turk, Ellen <Ellen.Turk@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ALERT: Arndt Newsletter (Sending @ 4:45)

Thanks!

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**Subject:** Honoring Our Local Heroes

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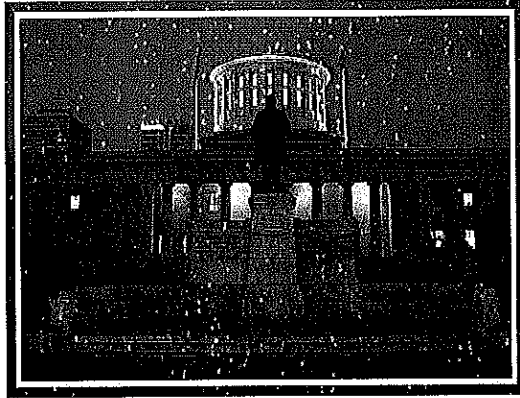


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**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 4:32 PM  
**To:** Slack, Cora; Best, Carolyn  
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**Yes, Margaretta.**

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**Subject:** Honoring Our Local Heroes

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## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER STEVE ARNDT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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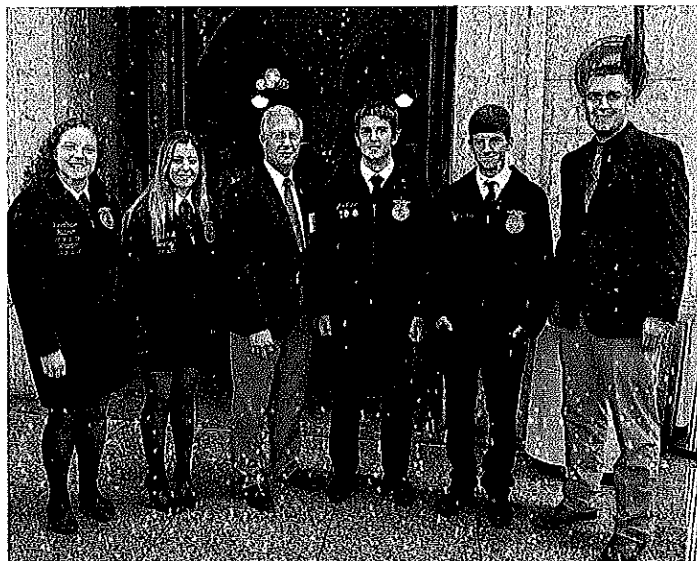
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**To:** Best, Carolyn; Slack, Cora; Westlake, Libby; Crock, Sarah  
**CC:** Turk, Ellen  
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Yes, Margaretta. The Polar Bears!

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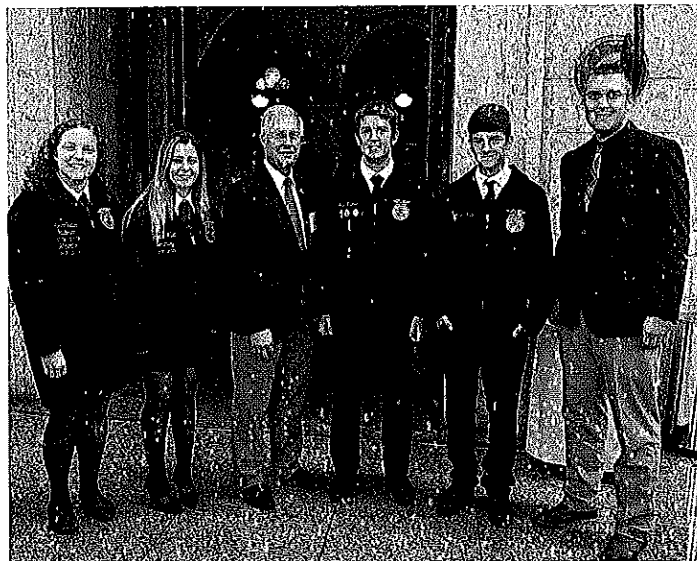
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**From:** Capitol Letter

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 6:15 AM

**To:** Best, Carolyn

**Subject:** Ohio township law would undergo wide-ranging changes under new House bill

= 9

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

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# Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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## = 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **Talk of the town(ship):** State rules for townships in Ohio would change in a number of ways under new House Bill 500, from Republican Rep. Rick Carfagna. The measure is a grab-bag of changes that various townships around the state are seeking, according to Carfagna (a former township trustee). The bill would, among other things, require boards of township trustees to elect a chair every year, allow townships to impose a tax of up to 5 percent on cover charges for performances and on the price of scalped tickets beyond the face-value cost, allow townships to tax beyond Ohio's "10-mill limitation" for up to a decade for road and infrastructure projects, and no longer require township zoning commissions to submit zoning plans to county or regional planning commissions for

approval.

= 9 **Double-check:** New legislation from state Sen. (and Republican secretary of state candidate) Frank LaRose would require every county board of elections to conduct a "risk-limiting audit" of at least three races or ballot issues after general and special elections. Under Senate Bill 256, bipartisan teams of elections officials would hand count randomly sampled ballots from the selected races to ensure the initial election result is correct.

= 9 **'Pragmatic conservative':** That's how Gov. John Kasich now labels himself when it comes to the gun debate. As reported Sunday by Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock, a pro-gun section of Kasich's political website was scrubbed Sunday after Kasich appeared on CNN and advocated for "reasonable" gun control measures. By Monday, as Ohio Public Radio/TV Statehouse bureau chief Karen Kasler noted on Twitter, JohnKasich.com had a new section called "Common sense on the Second Amendment."

= 9 **Taylor returns fire:** Kasich's lieutenant governor and frenemy-in-chief Mary Taylor took a shot at her one-time political partner over the gun issue. "All too often in the aftermath of these tragic events, there is [a] knee-jerk reaction to attack the 2nd Amendment rights of our citizens rather than to address the root causes, which often center around mental illness," Taylor, a GOP gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement Monday. "Restricting the rights of law abiding Ohioans to legally purchase a gun does not do that. Neither does removing your prior support for pro-2nd Amendment legislation from a website."

= 9 **School project:** Attorney general and GOP gubernatorial frontrunner Mike DeWine also doesn't favor additional gun-control measures as a result of the Florida high-school shooting, according to a spokesman. But DeWine's campaign on Monday released a plan to protect schools from violent attacks. If elected, DeWine would seek to ensure there is a licensed mental-health professional in every Ohio school (his spokesman said it's unclear how much that would cost or how to pay for it). In addition, the AG would direct Ohio's Strategic Analysis and Information Center (set up after 9/11 to prevent terrorist attacks) to monitor social media for threats to attack schools. Finally, DeWine would seek to ensure that Ohio court

records are made available to the state (and, therefore, federal) law-enforcement database, so a criminal conviction wouldn't be overlooked during a background check to buy a gun.

= 9 **It would be 'great':** We know that Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown have found some common ground on the issue of trade. Now Brown, following up on a meeting at the White House last week with Trump and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, has extended an invitation. "I invite you to come to Ohio and tour a steel mill with me," reads a letter from Brown to Trump. Who knows how the gesture (some might call it a stunt) will be received, but Brown certainly spoke Trump's language. He praised Trump's recent action protecting domestic washing machine manufacturers, called American workers "the best in the world," and concluded by telling the president: "I hope we can plan this great event together."

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**Venturing out:** Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan says he plans to take a delegation of venture capitalists on "tour of heartland cities to learn what it will take to get more investment flowing to companies in these cities." The tour will begin Wednesday with stops in Youngstown and Akron, then head west to Michigan and Indiana.

= 9 **Health issue:** The pro-Obamacare group Save My Care is airing a new 30-second ad in Cincinnati this week (as well as online statewide) encouraging Ohioans to call on Congress to "stop the partisan war on health care." The ad, titled "Enough is Enough," is part of a national ad buy by the group, according to spokeswoman Amanda Wurst.

= 9 **Everyone's a winner:** The Republican Party of Cuyahoga County on Sunday endorsed both GOP candidates in Ohio House District 6: Michael Canty and Jim Trakas. Canty and Trakas had each called for a joint endorsement, saying they want to minimize GOP infighting so the district (held by term-limited Republican Rep. Marlene Anielski) doesn't fall into Democratic hands.

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## **Stories We're Talking About**

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**More on guns and the governor's race:** Democratic gubernatorial

candidate Dennis Kucinich on Monday launched a push for a statewide ban on AR-15 style semiautomatic weapons, [cleveland.com's Mark Naymik reports](#). Kucinich, who held at a rally in Cleveland with his running mate, Akron Councilwoman Tara Samples, wants communities to pass resolutions urging the state legislature to act. But as Naymik notes, the General Assembly is "dominated by Republican gun-rights advocates who have passed numerous laws loosening gun restrictions."

= 9 **Presidents among us?** Well, their namesakes, anyway. For some Presidents Day fun, [cleveland.com's data expert Rich Exner searched the records](#) of Ohio's nearly 8 million registered voters to see if he could find any names matching the eight presidents with ties to our state. And for good measure, he looked for any Donald Trumps.

= 9 **More Presidents Day fun:** Although Rutherford B. Hayes didn't show up on the current Ohio voter rolls, he did appear at the top of another list: He was found by a new study to be the nation's healthiest president, [cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton reports](#). Trump, whose doctor recently declared him "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," rated number 26.

= 9 **ICYMI:** Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor says she would vote for rival Mike DeWine over a Democrat in the governor's race. But she doesn't think it'll come to that, because she plans to win the Republican nomination. Taylor talked about the campaign, her upbringing and lots more [in the latest episode of Ohio Matters](#), [cleveland.com's politics podcast](#). You can check out all the episodes [here](#).

= 9 **Not an oxymoron:** The Columbus Dispatch's Marion Renault [has a story](#) on "conservative conservationists," featuring Republican Sarah Spence, government affairs director for the Ohio Environmental Council.

## Full Disclosure

= 9 Five things we learned from Tiffin Republican Rep. Bill Reineke's June 9 ethics disclosure.

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1. He was nearly a month late turning in the form, which was due May 15.

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2. He earned \$100,000 or more at Tiffin Ford-Lincoln Inc, of which he was president, and at least \$100,000 at Reineke Ford Lincoln. Ford Motor Co. paid him \$25,000 to \$49,999. He was involved in 20 business entities in 2016. As a legislator, he earned \$63,917 that year.

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3. He listed 47 investments in 2016, including stock in his own companies, a money market with Edward Jones, retirement with Nationwide, and stock with Citigroup, Apple, Alcoa and Cisco.

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4. The state reimbursed him \$3,347.76 for mileage in 2016.

= 9 5. He received a \$125 ticket from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to its annual meeting and brunch from the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association worth \$19.

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## **On the Move**

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Samantha Herd has been named chief of staff to Democratic lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton, according to a campaign release. Herd, a longtime Cincinnati resident, was political director on Sutton's gubernatorial campaign last year and served as Sutton's district director for her congressional office between 2011 and 2013.

## **= 9 What's Going On**

= 9 **10 a.m. – Ohio Ballot Board meeting:** The board is set to consider approving language for the congressional redistricting ballot issue and determine whether a proposed Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection constitutional amendment contains only one proposed amendment. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= 9 **10 a.m. – House Ways and Means Committee:** The panel may amend and vote on House Bill 337, which would create a sales tax exemption for college textbooks. *Room 121, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **11 a.m. – Lawmakers to unveil bill to make fishing/hunting**

**licenses cheaper:** State Sens. Joe Uecker and Sean O'Brien, as well as state Reps. Jonathan Dever and Jack Cera, are slated to attend. *Harding Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

**= 9 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Rep. Wes Retherford fundraising luncheon:** Sponsor levels for the Hamilton Republican range from \$350 to \$1,000. *OHROC, 7th floor, 21 W. Broad St.*

**= 9 Noon – Black History Month performance:** The 45-minute show will feature Anthony Gibbs performing "Fighting for Freedom: Ohio's Black Civil War Soldiers." *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

**= 9 1:30 p.m. – Senate session.**

**= 9 5 p.m. – Cordray, Sutton to rally with Lorain-area labor leaders:** Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray and running mate Betty Sutton are expected to speak out against "right to work" legislation in the Ohio House. *Laborers' Union Local 758 Hall, 2089 N. Ridge Rd., Lorain.*

**= 9 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Women of POWER networking reception and fundraiser:** Proceeds from the sold-out event benefit John Glenn College of Public Affairs non-partisan leadership programs that help Ohio women run for political office. *Capital Club, 41 S. High St.*

**= 9 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser:** Sponsor levels range from \$500 to \$2,500. *Suite 1650, 88 E. Broad St.*

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## **Straight From The Source**

**= 9 "His slam dunk for justice is needed."**

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**- The Rev. Jesse Jackson, defending LeBron James after Fox News commentator Laura Ingraham criticized the Cleveland Cavaliers star for his recent comments about social issues.**

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